



Home Office

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Sent via e-mail: request-307986-520aafb4@whatdotheyknow.com

Information Access Team
Home Office
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e-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/home-office

Tuesday 26 January 2016

Dear Mr Girdhar,

Re: Freedom of Information request – 37952

Thank you for your e-mail of 21 December 2015, in which you ask for the following information regarding sham marriages. Your query has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

“According to the recent law proposed for tackling sham marriages. Individuals under immigration control will have to comply with the Marriage Referral Assessment Unit's marriage investigation.

From my understanding they either

- 1.) allow the marriage if they believe is genuine
- 2.) may prove it sham and take enforcement action if required
- 3.) comply or not complying with investigation.

If someone doesn't comply, home office has the powers to prevent registrars from issuing marriage authority.

How is the compliance with marriage investigation scheme measured and under what grounds can the Secretary of state give a call that an the couple did not comply with the investigation.”

Full details of how compliance with the scheme is measured and the grounds on which it is decided whether a couple have complied with the requirements of the scheme were published as statutory guidance in March 2015 under the title:
“Immigration Act 2014. Marriage and civil partnership referral and investigation scheme: statutory guidance for Home Office staff.”

Section 4 of the guidance refers to Compliance with an investigation and it is publicly available at :

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419313/Statutory_guidance_March_2015_.pdf .



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Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts the Home Office from having to provide you with this information, because it is already reasonably accessible. If you have any difficulties in accessing this information at the source which I have indicated, please contact me again

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference 37952. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

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If you request an internal review, that review will be carried out by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information & Parliamentary Questions Team
Intelligence Capability & Co-ordination Unit
Immigration Enforcement