



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**Consular Directorate**

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17 October 2014

E-mail: [request-231529-0647d0ec@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-231529-0647d0ec@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear *Sadika*,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST REF: 0928-14**

Thank you for your email of 17 September 2014 asking for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000. You asked:

Further to recent announcements by home office to issue emergency travel documents for children out of UK, infact the exact wording on gov.uk website says

- 1. How many emergency travel documents have been issued for children born outside the UK in the months of July, Aug and Sep '14. (especially children born in India)*
- 2. What is the average turnaround time to get ETD in the months of July, August and Sep'14.*
- 3. As everybody know, schools in UK have started in September and parents with school going children cannot bring them to the UK along with new borns because currently there is no information about how long it takes to get ETD for new borns from India. For such parents is there any helpline or some other departments to speak to and expedite the application processing?*
- 4. In Sep'14 the Home Office announced that the number of outstanding application have fell from nearly half-a-million to just 90,000. If there is such a fast turn around time, how many overseas applications from India were successfully dispatched to individuals in the months of July, Aug and Sep 2014?*

I am writing to confirm that we have now completed the search for the information that you requested.

I can confirm that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does hold information relevant to your request.

1. The figures for UK Emergency Travel Documents (ETDs) issued to children born outside the UK are:
  - July 2014: 641 (10 of which were in India)
  - August 2014: 293 (less than 5 of which were in India)
  - September 2014: 218 (12 of which were in India)

Please note that the above figures do not include any ETDs issued to children born in the UK.

2. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) aims to issue ETDs on the same or next working day for straightforward cases once we receive the full and complete application at the British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate. The turnaround time for non-straightforward cases, including those who have not previously held a British passport, can vary depending on the complexity of the case and in some cases it could mean that travel arrangements have to be delayed. It is the FCO's priority to provide an efficient service to all ETD applicants and we will aim to turn around each application as quickly as possible.
3. For the duration of the measures (which were announced by the Home Secretary on 12 June 2014), Her Majesty's Passport Office is responsible for verifying the identity and nationality for applicants from India, if the applicant hasn't previously held a British passport. HM Passport Office considers each application on a case by case basis. They do not have a helpline for ETD applicants unless the applicant also has a passport application in process. Parents/applicants for ETDs should liaise directly with the British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate to discuss their application.
4. The information you requested is not held by Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). We understand HM Passport Office will respond to this question separately.

We are unable to provide precise figures when the overall numbers are five or fewer to minimise the risk of individuals being identified. We are required to protect their identity under the Data Protection Act (DPA). We regard these figures as personal data relating to third parties. It is our view that disclosure of this information would breach the first data protection principle, which states that personal data should be processed fairly and lawfully. Section 40(2) and (3) of the FOIA therefore apply. It is the fairness aspect of this principle which we think would be breached by disclosure in this case. In such circumstances, section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure. We do not therefore have to apply the public interest test. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed releasable to the public unless it is exempt. The information we have supplied to you may now be published on our [website](#) together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

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I hope you are satisfied with this reply. However, if you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the FOI and DPA Team, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room K4.10-13, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH. E-mail: [foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk](mailto:foi-dpa.imd@fco.gov.uk). You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may then apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the FCO. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

FOI / DPA Team  
Consular Directorate



