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KM Butler

FOI Reference: 24535/1746

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[request-127318-fbea94d2@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-127318-fbea94d2@whatdotheyknow.com)

21 December 2012

Dear Mr Butler

Thank you for your enquiry of 31 August in which you requested additional information regarding processing times for Further Leave to Remain FLR(M) postal applications. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000. Please accept my apology for the delay in the response.

Please see the information below in response to your questions. Your request follows your previous FOI request 24026 which has been completed.

1) In addition I'd like to know what the longest and shortest processing times for FLR(M) postal applications completed in August (or the latest month for which the data is available), and the total number of postal FLR(M)s completed.

The shortest processing time was one calendar day.

The longest time taken to process an FLR(M) postal application which we completed in June was 3,373 calendar days. This particularly complex application was received by the UK Border Agency in March 2003. It was necessary to refer this application to an enforcement team to conduct interviews and assess claims that the marriage was not genuine. Sensitive handling was required as there were also allegations of domestic abuse.

This single historic application is not a fair representation of the service levels that are achieved within temporary migration. The response to question 2 below demonstrates the processing times that are currently being achieved.

- 2) If possible I'd like to know how many of the FLR(M) postal applications completed in August (or the latest month for which the data is available) were completed with in
- A. 1 month,
  - B. 2 months
  - C. 3 months
  - D. 4 months
  - E. 5 months
  - F. 6 months
  - G. 7 months or over from the date from which the original application was made.

In answering this question we have looked at FLR(M) postal applications completed in June 2012, providing a breakdown of the time taken to reach a decision. Please note, applications completed in June 2012 will have been received in earlier months. The requested data is shown in the table below.

**Table 1: Time taken to complete FLR(M) applications decided in June 2012**

<b>Time taken</b>	<b>No. of applications</b>
Under 1 month	160
1-2 months	51
2-3 months	55
3-4 months	327
4-5 months	96
5-6 months	32
6-7 months	16
7+ months	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>785</b>

**Note for all data provided:**

- (1) All figures quoted are management information which has been subject to internal quality checks. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and are therefore provisional and subject to change.**
- (2) Figures relate to main applicants only.**
- (3) Figures relate to postal applications only.**
- (4) Figures relate to applications with a decision dispatch date between 1 and 30 June 2012.**
- (5) Time taken is based on the number of months between the case creation and decision dispatched date.**

I hope this is of help to you. 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 24535. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team  
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e-mail: [FOIRequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOIRequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed 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

Lisette Sokell-Morgan