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David Hook

Sent By email –
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om](mailto:request-192605-bb98d96c@whatdotheyknow.com)

23 January 2014

Dear Mr Hook,

FOI Request 30271

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 January which concerns guidance in relation to the 'centre of life' test which must be met by applicants applying for residence documentation under regulation 9 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, as amended on 1 January. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You have asked: "...how the Home Office defines 'centre of life' as pertaining to immigration, and written copies of all policy documents covering this. I am also requesting copies of any guidance issued to any officials and officers regarding decision-making regarding this."

I can confirm that we hold the information you have requested.

Some of the information is already in the public domain and reasonably accessible to you. The amended version of regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations is set out at paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 to the Immigration (European Economic Area) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2013. This is subject to the transitional provisions contained in paragraph 3 of Schedule 3. You can view the relevant legislation at the following link:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/3032/contents/made>.

I also refer you to paragraphs 7.11-7.12 of the accompanying explanatory memorandum, which can also be accessed at the link above.

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.

In respect of guidance issued to “officials and officers” I am disclosing the following documents at Annexes A and B to this letter.

Annex A contains the relevant training slides used in training staff on the new requirements. There are seven pages in total.

Annex B ('Notice 02/2014 – Surinder Singh') is guidance issued by the European operational policy team for use by caseworkers assessing applications made under regulation 9 from 1 January 2014 (three pages in total).

Please note that names and telephone numbers of individual staff members have been redacted from Annex B on the ground that this constitutes personal data and is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the Act. The exempted sections are marked as redacted.

I can confirm that I have released all of the relevant documents we hold in respect of your request.

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 **FOI 30271**. 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
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: info.access@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

P Grant
European Operational Policy Team