



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Consular Directorate
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Our reference: FOI 0960-10/CONS 83-10

18 November 2010

Mr Steve Elibank

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Dear Mr Elibank,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF ACT 2000: REF 0960-10

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 October to the Information Rights Team in which you requested, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA or Act), information about a template statement provided to those who wish to refuse a spouse's indefinite leave to remain application in a forced marriage situation. Your request stated:

"I understand that if a person wish to refuse to sponsor their spouse's Indefinite Leave to Remain, they can be given "a template" by the Forced Marriage Unit to help formulate the appropriate statement. Please provide me with an electronic copy of this template, as well as any associated advice and/or guidance"

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

I attach the template that the UKBA provide for victims of forced marriage who refuse to support an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has produced a survivors handbook, which contains information and advice for victims of forced marriage. The document can also be accessed via the FMU webpage at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/information-for-victims>. The book includes advice for those who no longer wish to sponsor their spouse's settlement visa application (see pages 16 and 17) and refers to a template which those in this situation can use to prepare a statement (also attached).

I hope you are satisfied with this reply. If you have any queries about this letter, or are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and you wish to make a complaint or if you would like a review of our decision, please write to the Information Rights Team at The Old Admiralty Building, Room SG 120, London, SW1A 2PA. E-mail: dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications. You have 40 working days to do so from the date of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by

the FCO. The ICO can be contacted at The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

We continually strive to improve our service, so we would welcome your feedback and comments. If you would like to provide feedback, please email our Information Rights Team at: dp-foi.img@fco.gov.uk.

You can also find out more about the FCO and freedom of information issues at our Access to Information website: <http://foi.fco.gov.uk/en>

Yours sincerely,

Louise Edwards

Louise Edwards
Strategy, Communications and Training Group