



UK Visas & Immigration

Freedom of Information
Central Correspondence Team
Customer Service Operations
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Mr Keith Taynton
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www.gov.uk/ukvi

FOI Reference: 38252

09 February 2016

Dear Mr Taynton

Thank you for your enquiry of 23 & 24 January in which you requested information on Visa applications. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

Who pays for refugee visa application fees.

In 2014-2015 what was the percentage of spouse visa applications refused because of lack of evidence of English ability?

Spouse applicants are now required to take an English test at a SELTS centre. How much did it cost the home office to plan, tender and contract the providers of this test?

What are the ongoing costs for this system?

To produce a report or data relating in anyway to the percentage of spouse visa applications refused because of lack of evidence of English ability. We would have to manual trawl through stored data in order to look at every case individually to identify the refusal reasons as these are not stored in a reportable field on our case management database. This would be neither cost nor resource effective therefore under section 12(1) of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an

information request where to do so would exceed the designated cost limit. We believe that to provide the information you are seeking would breach this cost limit and as such we are unable to supply it to you.

The Home Office is not obliged to comply with any information request where the prescribed cost of supplying you with the information exceeds £600. The £600 limit applies to all central government departments and is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours work per request. Prescribed costs include those which cover the cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information. They do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or disbursements such as photocopying or postage.

If you were to resubmit a more specific request of narrower scope then we would reconsider it, although we cannot guarantee that any information covered by a narrower request would be disclosed. Further information about resubmitting a more specific request can be found at :

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/refusing-a-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 38252. 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
3rd Floor, Peel 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 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

C Heap
Customer Service Operations

We value your feedback, please use the link below to access a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our service to you:

<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG>