



UK Visas
& Immigration

Freedom of Information
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FOI Reference: 56762

31 December 2019

Dear Mr Amor

Thank you for your enquiry of 4 December in which you requested information on Tier 4 visas. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Information Requested

1> Tier 4 Student Visa data by Sponsor Organization with visa issued > 5 Per year . Additionally share the Length of stay allowed categorized by Length of course ("Less than six months", "Six months or more, but less than 12 months", "12 months or more"). Additionally share the NQF level of programme of study.

*2> Tier 4 Student Visa data for nationality of student (partial
2> information is shared via FOI Reference: 33564) additionally split by
2> approved and denied/ rejected status*

*3> Tier 4 Student Visa data for freshly issued visa vs extended visa in
3> the year 2018*

Response

Regarding question 1, 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 cost limit.

We have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it. To identify the data you have requested from our visa system would require a manual search through applications and a cross referencing exercise with the Tier 4 sponsorship database.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again however, any request involving a manual search or cross referencing of reports is likely to exceed the cost limit regardless of how it is refined.

Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

Even if a revised request were to fall within the cost limit, it is possible that other exemptions in the Act might apply.

I confirm that the Home Office holds the information which you have requested in questions 2 & 3. However, we believe that the information is already reasonably accessible to you. It can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets>

Section 21(1) of the FOIA exempts the Home Office from having to provide you with this information, because it is already reasonably accessible to you. If you have any difficulties in accessing this information at the source which I have indicated, please contact me again.

For question 2, the relevant data can be found in Vis_D01 (Applications for entry clearance visas) and Vis_D02 (Outcomes of entry clearance visa applications) in the entry clearance spreadsheet.

For question 3, 'freshly issued' visas are the same as question 2 (entry clearance spreadsheet) and extensions are contained in the extensions spreadsheet (containing Exe_D01 and Exe_D02).

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 foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference 56762. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

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

J Slater
Central 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>