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Mr Mohammed Imran
By email: request-196769-
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FOI Reference: 30678
OUR Reference: VCT167773

7 March 2014

Dear Mr Imran

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 February which you requested information on the following:

What is the total number of applications received by nationality of applicant for settlement as a Partner of a British citizen or settled person (VAF4A Form) in 2013 (i.e., from 1st Jan 2013 to 31st Dec 2013). Just to clarify, I am interested in applications lodged outside UK?

How many applications, made as a Partner of a British citizen or settled person, were rejected between 01st Jan 2013 till 31st December 2013? Again please could you provide this information by nationality of applicant?

How many of decisions were appealed with the First-tier tribunal in year 2013, again per country?

How many of these appeals were allowed by the first-tier tribunal, i.e., decision of an ECO over-turned per country?

Your enquiry is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We believe that the information you have requested on:

The number of applications received by nationality of applicant for settlement as a Partner of a British citizen or settled person (VAF4A Form) in 2013 (i.e., from 1st Jan 2013 to 31st Dec 2013). Just to clarify, I am interested in applications lodged outside UK? and

How many applications, made as a Partner of a British citizen or settled person, were rejected between 01st Jan 2013 till 31st December 2013?

is already reasonably accessible to you.

The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics on entry clearance applications and refusals of leave to remain by category in the before entry table be_01_q within the

'Immigration Statistics' release. A copy of the latest release, 'Immigration Statistics October – December 2013' is available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> . (Before Entry volume 2 tables at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tables-for-immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2013>)

The table includes filters to allow users to select which part of the data they wish to view and will be already filtered when the file is first downloaded. To use the filters click on the button and select the item you want to see from the list presented.

Data on grants and refusals relates to decisions made in 2013 and hence some decisions will relate to applications made in earlier years. The data also reflects the outcome of appeals and administrative reviews of cases where these occurred in 2013.

The figures from the published statistics on family cases from 9 July 2012 to the end 2013 are not solely based on the new family Immigration Rules, further details are provided at Annex A .

Section 21 of the FOI Act exempts the Home Office from having to provide you with this information about applications and refusals of entry clearance visas for the partner category, potentially leading to settlement, because it is already reasonably accessible. If you have any difficulties in accessing this information at the link I have provided please contact us again.

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 30678.

If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response. The contact address for requesting an internal review is below:

Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor,
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

e-mail: 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.

A. Ojewale (Mrs)

FOI Practitioner – Midlands, East of England & International Responder Hub
UK Visas & Immigration

Annex A

The data for 2013 may include some decisions based applications made on the family Immigration Rules that were in place before 9 July 2012, for example cases that were appealed. There was also a late surge, prior to July 2012, in applications under the old rules which will be reflected in the data on decisions made on or after that date.

Data from Q2 2012 onwards may also include applications which will be considered under old rules in place before 9 July 2012 due to transitional arrangements for partners of HM forces. New family rules were not applied to partners of HM Forces in the period July 2012 – December 2013 and applicants could rely on the old family rules during that time. Though new Immigration Rules for partners of HM Forces were introduced in December 2013 in Appendix Armed Forces; due to further transitional arrangements some partners of HM Forces will still receive a decision under the old family rules on or after December 2013.

Therefore figures from the published statistics on family from 9 July 2012 to the end 2013 are not solely based on new family Immigration Rules decisions.