



UK Visas & Immigration

Freedom of Information
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7 February 2017

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for your enquiry of 20 January in which you requested information on joint Visa Application Centres (VACs). Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Information Requested

I wish to request the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 'The Act'.

In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible. Please let me know if you require further clarification.

- *How many joint visa application centres did the UK have at the end of January 2016?*

Response - I have provided information as of January 2017. We currently have 80 joint Visa Application Centres (VACs).

- *Where is each centre located and when was it inaugurated?*

Response - Please see attached spreadsheet for full details of the location of each VAC. Rollout of joint VACs commenced in April 2014 under the current NGOV (Next Generations Outsourced Visas) contract.

- *Who is each joint centre shared with (e.g. Australia and New Zealand, exclusively Australia, etc.)*

Response - Details are provided on the attached spreadsheet.

- *Are all of the joint application centres run by VFS.Global? If not, who runs the centres?*

Response - The UKVI NGOV Contract which commenced in April 2014 was awarded to 2 Suppliers – VFS and TLS. Details of who runs each joint application centre are provided in the attached spreadsheet.

- *Are all of the joint application centres part of the Five Country Conference (FCC) initiative under an agreement to share a global network of visa application centres?*

Response - UKVI shares joint application centres with a number of different partners and this is not exclusive to FCC participants. Details of VAC share partners are provided in the attached spreadsheet.

- *Can you please provide me with a copy of the FCC visa application centre agreement?*

Response - There is no specific FCC agreement for VAC shares. UKVI has Commercial agreements in place with its 2 suppliers which covers areas such as VAC shares.

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 **42565**. 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
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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 faithfully

J Jones
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>