

MEETING WITH MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES

Monday 8th February, 11.00am

REDACTED

We arranged this second meeting with the MFA with a view to eliminating the standard ORSU note on foreign marriages that Spanish Embassies are requesting all over the world when a non-EU national married to a British national outside of Spain or the UK tries to obtain a residence visa for Spain.

REDACTED began by explaining that the note is currently being issued by British Consulates in these third countries, at our request, as they are not aware of Spanish immigration regulations. REDACTED said that the FCO had told us that the generic letter does not really have any legal validity, and that they would like to stop issuing it.

REDACTED reiterated what REDACTED had said in our previous meeting, that if the couple can provide their local marriage certificate then that should be sufficient and REDACTED wasn't sure why Spanish Embassies were asking for a letter from the British Consulate as well. REDACTED stated again that it was probably only asked for in cases where the visa officers were not convinced that the marriage was genuine from the other documents submitted.

REDACTED reminded them that it was impossible to register foreign marriages in the UK, and this seems to be the crux of the problem in many cases – simply that the marriage was not registered. REDACTED asked if we should just send a Nota Verbale to be circulated to Spanish Embassies worldwide. REDACTED mentioned that we always make it clear to customers that we have no influence over Spanish immigration policy, and they have every right to refuse someone a visa.

REDACTED agreed that all we need to do is send a Nota Verbale, as REDACTED suggested, reiterating that it is not possible to register foreign marriages in the UK, and stating that British Consulates worldwide will no longer be issuing the note on foreign marriages for visa applications. REDACTED said this information would then get incorporated into the Spanish Embassies' "manual de visados".

10th Feb 2016