



## UK Visas & Immigration

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FOI Reference: 48021

24 April 2018

Dear Mr Khan

Thank you for your enquiry of 9 April in which you requested information on naturalisation applications. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Information Requested

*- Please can you confirm how many naturalisation applications were recieved, how many are complete and how many cases are still pending for the following months:*

*April 2017*

*May 2017*

*June 2017*

*July 2017*

*August 2017*

*September 2017*

*October 2017*

*November 2017*

*December 2017*

*If possible, are you able to give a breakdown of naturalisation applications recieved via Naturalisation Checking Services and/or by post or other means. And also a breakdown of applications made from within the UK and outside.*

## Response

Under section 12 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 hold the information which you have requested but 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. We are not able to definitively say whether an application has been made via the Nationality Checking Service or from within the UK or overseas without checking each application and this would go beyond the cost threshold for a response under the FOI Act.

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 due to the reasons highlighted above, any request involving a manual search through applications is likely to go beyond the cost threshold for a response under the Act. The part of your request regarding data on the number of naturalisation applications received, complete and pending has not been considered exempt due to cost limitations.

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.

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.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference 48021. 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

## Customer Performance & Improvement

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>