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xx 2018

Dear Ms Waldersee

Thank you for your enquiry of 22 October in which you requested information on the Life In The UK test. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Information Requested

- 1) Number and location of test centres for the Life In The UK test from 2005 to the present day, indicating where test centres have opened or closed*
- 2) Waiting time for Life In The UK test appointments in each centre in 2018*
- 3) Dates of reviews to the content of the Life In The UK test handbook since 2005, names of people involved in the review, & any available documents on rationale for having a review and choosing which content to take out and add in.*

### Response

The information you have requested in question one can be found in the attached Annex 1. These statistics have been taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.

Regarding question two, there has been 100% availability for candidates to take their test over the past 12 months. Candidates are presented with their five nearest test centres and availability is based on that.

You asked for dates of reviews to the content of the Life In The UK test handbook since 2005, names of people involved in the review, & any available documents on rationale for having a review and choosing which content to take out and add in.

The original publication "Life in the United Kingdom: A Journey to Citizenship" was published in 2004. The second edition was published to be used for tests taken from April 2007. At that time the law changed to introduce a knowledge of language and life in the UK requirement for settlement as well as citizenship. That opportunity was taken to revise the handbook, and the second edition was published. The format and headings remained the same, but changes took into account comments made about the handbook. That task was carried out by members of the Advisory Board on Naturalisation and Integration. Information about the ABNI can be found on their website: <http://abni.org.uk/>.

The third edition of the handbook was published on 28 January 2013. The handbook was intended to help those seeking to live permanently in the UK to gain a basic understanding of the democratic principles underlying British society, and of aspects of British culture and traditions, and to understand some of the cultural and historical references which occur in everyday conversations. It traces the development of British democracy, legal system, language and culture over time, to assist the reader in understanding how the UK has become the country which it is today. The government's statement setting out the rationale for the new handbook was published on 27 January 2013: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-culture-and-history-at-heart-of-new-life-in-the-uk-test>.

We are unable to provide the names of former Home Office staff involved in the review, as the Home Office has obligations under the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and in law generally to protect personal data. We have concluded that the information you have requested is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOI Act, because of the condition at section 40(3A)(a). This exempts personal data if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

We are also unable to provide names of editors and experts consulted during the development of the third edition of the Life in the UK handbook. None of those individuals were contracted by the Home Office. As such the Home Office does not hold a list of names of those involved.

I am also unable to provide information about revisions made for the third edition of the Life in the UK handbook in terms of additions to and removals from the content. This is because the third edition was in effect a rewrite of the whole publication, focusing on different aspects. As such, although some of the information will be the same, the structure of the publication is too different to allow for comparison of the text in those terms.

Minor changes have also been made to correct inaccuracies, such as updating the details of notable Britons.

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](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk), quoting reference 50728. 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>