



Home Office

International and Immigration
Policy Group
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London
SW1P 4DF

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www.gov.uk/homeoffice

BritCits
via www.whatdotheyknow.com

21 April 2015

FOI Reference: 34947

Dear BritCits

Thank you for your e-mail of 2 April, in which you ask for the following information:

"Please therefore as a request under the FOI Act, release the internal communications made within the Home Office on O&B vs Netherlands, Home Office's reaction to the judgment and thoughts on the implementation."

Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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 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. This is because your request is too broad and simply refers to '*internal communications*', which could potentially cover a large range of documents. Therefore, the Free Movement Operational Policy Team would need to search through all correspondence, documents and memos relating to the *O&B vs Netherlands* judgment which have ever been drafted or issued by that team and by other teams within the Home Office. It is considered that the work required to ensure that all of the information held by the Home Office covered by your request was located, retrieved and extracted would by far exceed the £600 cost limit.

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 and preparing the response 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. For example, you could limit your request to a particular type of document, or limit to a specific period in which documents were issued. 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.

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 34947. 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
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
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 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.

Yours sincerely

Free Movement Operational Policy Team
International and Immigration Policy Group (IIPG)
Home Office