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Mr Robert Simpson

By email: request-242551-2ee3b953@whatdotheyknow.com

5 January 2015

Dear Mr Simpson

FOI Request 33709

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 December 2014, in which you ask for materials relating to the £55 fee which is charged for European residence documentation. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are considering your request. Although the Act carries a presumption in favour of disclosure, it provides exemptions which may be used to withhold information in specified circumstances. Some of these exemptions, referred to as 'qualified exemptions', are subject to a public interest test. This test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information. The Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where we need to consider the public interest test fully.

The information which you have requested is being considered under the exemptions in sections 27 and 35 of the Act, which relate to international relations and the formulation of government policy. These are qualified exemptions and to consider the public interest test fully we need to extend the 20 working day response period. We now aim to let you have a full response by 2 February.

Yours sincerely

D Morrison

International and Immigration Policy Group (IIPG)

