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Immigration Enforcement Secretariat Sandford House 41 Homer Road Solihull West Midlands B91 3QJ

www.gov.uk/home-office

9 February 2018

Dear Ms Palumbo

Freedom of Information request – 42758

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 February 2017, in which you ask for information regarding people removed from the UK. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

We also advised you that some of the information you requested was being considered under the exemptions in section 31(1) (e) of the Act, which relates to the operation of immigration control and section 27 (1) (a) prejudice to international relations; and that in order to consider the public interest test fully we needed to extend the 20 working day response period until 24 March 2017.

Specifically you asked,

"Please provide answers to the following requests regarding people removal from the UK.

- 1) Total number of people removed from the UK in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016;
- 2) Number of people removed divided in Males, Females, Children for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016;
- 3) Number of people removed by nationality by year for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016;
- 4) Number of people removed by reason of removal (Overstayed, refused 'leave to enter', entered illegally etc.) by year for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016;
- 5) Has the government payed flights and/or any other transportation for the removal of these people?"

We are now in a position to provide a full reply to your request. I am able to disclose the following information set out in the enclosed **Annex A & B.**

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, quoting reference 42758. 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 would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this

response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely

Immigration Enforcement Secretariat





<u>Annex</u>

In relation to questions 1 to 3 inclusive, we believe that the information you have requested is already reasonably accessible to you. It can be found on the GOV.UK website, alternatively via the following links:

The requested information can be found in Table rt_01-3,

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593031/returns1-q4-2016-tables.ods

and

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/593032/returns2-q4-2016-tables.ods.

Additionally, statistics that cover the period of October to December 2016 release, provides the latest figures on those subject to immigration control and is available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016.

A full list of tables is available at

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2016/list-of-tables.

The 'User Guide to Home Office Immigration Statistics' is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes on the issues and classifications in the Home Office's quarterly Immigration Statistics releases.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-home-office-immigration-statistics--9

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts the Home Office from having to provide you with this information, because it is already reasonably accessible to you. If you have any difficulties in accessing this information at the source which I have indicated, please contact me again.

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.

In relation to question 4, 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 do not currently have the information you requested in a reportable field on our case management system. In order to answer your question we would have to search each record case by case which would exceed cost limit. We are therefore unable to comply with it.





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.

The information for Question 4 was deemed to exceed cost limits as per section 12. The reason for this is that we do not currently have the information requested in a reportable field in our database. In order to answer the question we would have to manually check all the records, which would exceed cost limit.

Please note that even if you refine your request it is unlikely that we would be able to fulfil your request. This is because, as explained above, in order to find out the number of people removed by reason of removal we would have to search each record on our case management system case by case. Similarly if you break your request down into a series of smaller requests, we will still have to search our case management system case by case. Therefore we are highly likely to decline answering any further requests as the cost of will exceed £600.

In response to Question 5 the data you require is provided in the table below and additionally in **Annex B** attached in excel format as per your request:

Table: Returns where the data indicates the cost of flights was incurred at public expense.

Year of Return	Returns
2012	17,594
2013	16,972
2014	14,858
2015	14,233
2016 (up to 30 Sep-16)	9,764

Data extracted on 16/02/2017 and included both voluntary and enforced returns. In line with published statistics on returns, data up to 30th September 2016 only. Data based on a field that is not regularly reported on so data quality may not be to a high standard. Data based on reports run by the Home Office.

The above data covers costs of flights and no other form of transport. These statistics have been taken from a live operational database, as such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.

