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27 February 2017

Dear Ms Palumbo

**Freedom of Information – 42758**

Thank you for your e-mail of 3 February, in which you request information regarding removing people from the UK. Your query is being handled as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Specifically you ask:

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

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.

Some of the information you have requested is being considered under the exemption in section 31(1) (e) of the Act, which relates to law enforcement and the operation of immigration control. This is a qualified exemption 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 24 March.

Yours sincerely

**Immigration Enforcement**

Freedom of Information & Parliamentary Questions Team