



Home Office

Corporate Services
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020 7035 4848
(switchboard)

www.gov.uk

Mr John Smith
request-234826-
9a640f4c@whatdotheyknow.com

24 October 2014

Dear Mr Smith

Freedom of Information request: reference 33284

Thank you for your e-mail of 19 October 2014, in which you ask for information about seized passports. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

It is not clear, from your e-mail, exactly what information you require. To help us to deal with your request properly, I would be grateful if you could clarify it.

To enable us to establish the information you are seeking, please specify exactly what you mean by the term 'seized' and, in particular, clarify whether the request concerns passports 'seized' or those merely 'held' pending a resolution of an application.

In your request you also provided the reference number '017696259'. However without context as to what this reference number refers to, we are unable to associate it with any information which we may hold. Please provide more information as to what this reference number refers to.

Once you provide this information, we will aim to send you a full response to your request within twenty working days. If we do not receive clarification of your request within three months from the date of this letter, we will consider this request to be closed.

Yours sincerely

M Riddle
Information Access Team

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Annex A – Original Request in full

I will like to know for the reasons of a joint legal action against yourselves the number foreigners that have had their passports seized by the Home Office and its previous body the UKBA from 1 January 2012 to present.

We will also like a breakdown of reasons for which the passports were seized and for how long they have been kept by the Home office.

Under section 2 of the HOME OFFICE CIRCULAR 004/2014, you only have the power to seize a foreigners passport if it is an invalid travel documents. With the type face underlined making it the only grounds.

I will like therefore to know how many foreigners have had their passports or travel documents seized under the category of invalid travel documents since 1 January 2012.

I will also like to know in evidence the examination procedure that is undertaken to confirm the validity or otherwise of these passports (as it appears in most of the cases we are handling, the home office just decided it was invalid with no valid grounds).

Need I remind you that a passport without a visa is not deemed invalid under the specific acts.

I will also like to know why in the case of case ref: 017696259, despite the relevant authority, being the Ghanaian embassy specifically writing to your end confirming the validity of the Ghanaian passport in question, the home office has not immediately released the passport in question as detailed in paragraph 4(1) and paragraph 18 of the HOME OFFICE CIRCULAR 004/2014 the passport of the case ref in question has not had its validity confirmed by the letter from the Ghanaian embassy and further investigations not conducted to confirm its authenticity and immediately returned as instructed under paragraph 18.