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A Haddad

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request-52027-bf26a678@whatdotheyknow.com

Ref:CR16818

Dear Mr Haddad

I am writing further to my letter of 18 February, about your queries regarding the response to your request for an internal review. I am sorry that there has been a delay in responding to your letter. I have looked into your questions, and my response is as below:

1. You asked why Alex Mik was provided with an exact answer to a request for the number of individuals who had used the Super Premium Service for applications to extend their stay in the UK since the service was introduced in April 2006.

We do not disclose exact numbers of individuals where these are fewer than ten, in order to protect the identities of the individuals involved, in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Your request was submitted on November 16 2010, at which time the number of applicants was fewer than ten. By the time Alex Mik's request was submitted, on 11 February 2011, this number had risen to ten, so we were content to disclose this fact.

2. You were concerned that 100% of postal visa applications between April 6 2006 and November 16 2010 were successful, and questioned whether this was correct. You may find the statistics on immigration control on the Office for National Statistics website of interest:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/control-immigration-q4-2010snr.pdf>

3. You asked why the percentage of successful applications made via the premium service between April 6 and November 16 could not be disclosed.

As the total number of applications by this route for that time period was fewer than ten, disclosure of the success rate would risk identifying those individuals who had been granted, or refused a visa by this route. In accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act, this would not be deemed to be fair.

I hope that this clarifies the matters you were concerned about. If you have any further concerns, you can contact us at the above address.

Yours sincerely

Diana Pottinger

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