



## UK Visas & Immigration

Customer Services Improvement Directorate.

North West Correspondence Team  
UK Visas & Immigration  
Department 16  
The Capital  
Old Hall Place  
Liverpool  
L3 9PP

BritCits  
[request-176658-a173548e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-176658-a173548e@whatdotheyknow.com)

15 October 2013  
Our Reference: 28957

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for your e-mail of 13 September, in which you ask for information about Surinder Singh applications. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose the following;

Please see below for an FOI request with regards to British citizens returning to the UK with non-EEA family members using the Surinder Singh route.

a) Please provide the number of applications received under Surinder Singh, within the following time periods

January 2013 - August 2013 (or as recent as possible, please provide the date to which this is provided) January 2012 - December 2012 January 2011 - December 2011

- i) number of applications received in each of the above periods
- ii) number of applications granted the residence card
- iii) number of applications refused the residence card
- iv) number of applications that are still in process

Please also note any reasons for difference in the number within ii)-iv) not summing up to the number in i).

b) Please also provide information on the time taken for the processing, from receipt of application by the Home Office to

- i) the issuance of a 6 month stamp allowing said family members to live and work in the UK while their application is being processed, and
- ii) the issuance of the 5 year residence card.

covering the same time intervals as in a).

We are only able to report on data that is captured in certain mandatory fields on the Case Information Database (CID). Details of whether an application was made using the Surinder Singh route is not recorded in a reportable field. Consequently, in order to provide the requested information, we would need to undertake a manual case by case search of records.

The Home Office is not obliged to comply with any information request where the prescribed cost of supplying you with the information exceeds £600. The £600 limit applies to all central government departments and is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 3½ days work per request. Prescribed costs include those which cover the cost of locating and retrieving information, and preparing our response to you. They do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or disbursements such as photocopying or postage.

We have estimated that to gather and collate the information you have requested would exceed the £600 cost threshold.

In keeping with the Freedom of Information Act, we assume that all information can be released to the public unless it is exempt. In line with normal practice we are therefore releasing the information which you requested via the Home Office website.

I hope that this information meets your requirements. I would like to assure you that we have provided you with all relevant information that the Home Office holds.

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 the address below, quoting reference 28957. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team  
Home Office  
Ground Floor, Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
e-mail: [info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Emma Byrne  
North West Correspondence Team