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International and Immigration
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Clive Waterman
Via www.whatdotheyknow.com

FOI Reference: 43023

Date: 28 March 2017

Dear Mr Waterman,

Thank you for your e-mail of 26 February in which you ask for information about 'Surinder Singh' applications, including internal guidance issued to Home Office decision makers. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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. Section 10(3) of the Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where we need to consider the public interest test fully.

We are considering whether some of the information you have requested is exempt under the provisions of section 31(1) of the Act, which concerns prejudice to law enforcement functions, including:

- (a) the prevention and detection of crime,
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or
- (e) the operation of immigration controls.

These are qualified exemptions 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 **27 April 2017**.

Yours sincerely

P. Grant

Free Movement Policy Team

Immigration and Border Policy Directorate

Border, Immigration and Citizenship System – Policy and Strategy Group