



UK Visas & Immigration

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FOI Reference: 2992/34443

17 March 2015

Dear Aditi

Thank you for your enquiry of 17 February in which you requested information on Tier 2 Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS). This has been dealt with as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*Please share data for all Companies with Great Than or Equal to
(>=) 5 Tier 2 General COS Issued per year. Period = 6 April 2010 -
31 Dec 2014*

*The data is required in similar format to earlier published report on ICT data as part
of FIOA on 18 July 2014 FOI release Home Office (Link below)*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tier-2-certificates-of-sponsorship-used-by-tata-consultancy-services>

Data is split for all companies per year on

- a) Tier 2 (General) - CoS issued No#*
- b) Tier 2 (General) - CoS used by Nationality*
- c) Tier 2 (General) - CoS used by Gender*
- d) Tier 2 (General) - CoS used by Job Title*
- e) Tier 2 (General) - CoS used by Salary*
- f) Tier 2 (General) - CoS used by SOC Code*
- g) On Client Contract and Not on Client Contract*

Under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit. We hold information of interest to you but have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

You have requested this report to be produced in a similar format to the TATA ICT report (FOI 2697/31926). However, the TATA report was sponsor specific and involved us creating a report for that one sponsor. To provide reports for all Tier 2 (General) sponsors in the same format would require a separate data run for each of the 22,000 sponsors on the Tier 2 register, which would exceed the cost limit. We are therefore unable to comply with your request. Please see Annex A below for more information about section 12.

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 34443. 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
3rd Floor, Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: 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 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

Sandra Birkinshaw

We value your feedback, please use the link below to access a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our service to you:
<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG>

Section 12 – cost limit

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

Even if a new request were to fall below the £600 cost limit, the information you request might be withheld under the terms of a number of substantive exemptions contained in part II of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. These exemptions could also make it necessary for us to extend the period for responding beyond the usual 20 working day target if they involve having to consider the public interest balancing test.

You may refine your request. If you refine your request we will consider it again. You should however be aware that if you break your request down into a series of smaller requests, we might, depending on the circumstances of the case, decline to answer if the aggregated cost of complying exceeds £600, as permitted by the Fees Regulations.