



## UK Visas & Immigration

Aditi  
Email: request-254315-  
cd544ebe@whatdotheyknow.com

Freedom of Information Team  
Customer Service Operations  
North East, Yorkshire and the  
Humber Responder Hub  
PO Box 3468  
Sheffield  
S3 8WA

Fax: +44 (0)114 207 2882  
Email:  
FreedomofInformation.NEYH  
@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

[www.gov.uk/ukvi](http://www.gov.uk/ukvi)

FOI Reference: 34826/3156

15 April 2015

Dear Aditi

Thank you for your enquiry of 22 March in which you requested information relating to Tier 2 General Certificates of Sponsorship. Your request falls to be dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We are considering your information request. Although the Freedom of Information 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 are subject to a public interest test. These exemptions are known as qualified exemptions. The public interest test is used to balance the public interest in disclosure against the public interest in favour of withholding the information under qualified exemptions. Section 10(3) of the Act allows us to exceed the 20 working day response target where reasonably necessary to consider the public interest test fully. This is subject to us telling applicants when we expect to conclude our deliberations and provide a full response.

The information requested must be considered under the exemption contained within section 43 of the Act. This is a qualified exemption relating to commercial interests. In order to consider the public interest test fully we need to extend the 20 working day response period, and now aim to respond by 13 May 2015.

Should you have any queries about the handling of your information request then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

S 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>