



UK Visas & Immigration

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FOI Reference: 3156/34826

8 May 2015

Dear Aditi

Thank you for your follow-up enquiry of 22 March 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 (FOIA) 2000. We contacted you on 15 April to inform you that we are extending FOI 34826 for further consideration under the FOIA

Following our response on 17 March to FOI reference 2992/34443, you requested:

I understand that Home Office is concerned about generating report for 22,000 sponsors and the effort/ cost involved.

1. Please confirm if each of the 22,000 sponsors have applied for ≥ 5 certificates each year? My request was specifically was "Please share data for all Companies with Great Than or Equal to (\geq) 5 Tier 2 General COS Issued per year. Period = 6 April 2010 - 31 Dec 2014"

2. The example of TCS was only to prove the point that information exists and easily retrieved.

3. Please confirm if reducing the no# of fields in the report will help Home office generate a watered down list? example of watered down fields (by removing nationality and gender):

Data is split for all companies per year on

- a) Tier 2 (General) - CoS issued No#*
- 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

Please feel free to suggest alternatives in terms of data extraction possible.

4. What is needed is a simple SQL Query (and not different queries for 22,000 companies) for all the companies at a single shot. How difficult is this for a good programmer? My stance is that this still takes 5 mins (please re-use the earlier query and modify the same)

Please see separately attached Annex A, showing a breakdown of Tier 2 (General) Certificates of Sponsorship (CoS) assigned and used for period 6 April 2010 to 31 December 2014. Following our response to FOI 34443, we are able to provide the attached breakdown within the £600 cost limit under the FOIA.

Notes:

- **T2 GEN CoS Assigned between the dates 6 April 2010 to 31 December 2014.**
- **T2 GEN CoS Used between the dates above split by Organisation Name, Job Title, Salary (please note this is freetext input by the sponsor), SOC Code (as defined by the database) and year CoS Used**
- **Data based on reports used for published stats**
- **Data rounded as per FOI protocols**
- **The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.**

Please note that the Home Office does not use SQL for retrieving data from the Sponsorship systems. Furthermore, any data that we retrieve for FOIA requests must be quality assured to ensure that we are not breaching any Data Protection laws.

I hope this is of help to you. 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 34826. 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

Daniela Walker

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>