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S. Lassam

FOI Reference: 24184/1614

Email:
request-120967-f5b70da4@whatdotheyknow.com

15 November 2012

Dear Mr Lassam

Thank you for your enquiry of 3 July requesting 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. Please accept my apology for the delay in the response.

I attach separate tables showing Tier 2 General and Intra Company Transfers (ICTs) COS for the period January 2009 to June 2012.

We are unable to provide the data in the format you have requested as it may be possible to identify individuals by filtering the data. The general policy of the Home Office is not to disclose, to a third party, personal information about another person. This is because we have obligations under the Data Protection Act and in law generally to protect this information. Your request has been considered in line with our obligations under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. However, we have concluded that the breakdown you have requested is exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the FOI Act. This exempts personal data if disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles

When a sponsor assigns a COS to a worker they are required to provide information about the worker's salary package. They must provide a salary figure and alongside this the salary period (eg. day, week, month, year etc.) and a separate figure for allowances. We are aware that some sponsors have input salary details inaccurately (this could be something as simple as putting a decimal point in the wrong place or excluding a decimal point all together) which has resulted in some salary details becoming highly inflated when compared to actual salaries paid. While these

inaccuracies remain live on the system, any such errors are picked up at the leave to enter/remain stage of the application.

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.

I hope this information is useful. 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 24184. 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: FOIRequests@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

Sandra Birkinshaw