



UK Visas & Immigration

Harish Reddy

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10 June 2014

Dear Harish Reddy

Thank you for your enquiry of 19 May and subsequent clarification in which you requested information regarding Tier 2 of the points-based system. This has been dealt with as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

I am looking at in country information of all doctors and dentists who have been granted Tier 2 sponsorship to undertake work within NHS hospitals for above period. In other words, the numbers of doctors/dentists who applied for Tier 2 work permit to work within NHS Hospital and have been granted. I need data for each NHS Trust and by different clinical specialities such Oral Maxillofacial Surgery etc.

1) How many doctors or dentists (Non-consultant posts) were granted Tier 2 visa to work in NHS from 1 April 2013 to 1 April 2014?

2) How many doctors or dentists (Non-consultant) were granted Tier 2 visa in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery specialty for above period ?

3) Could you please provide the number of Tier 2 visas granted for a each NHS Trust for above period ? If possible, specifically for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery specialty.

Under section 12 (1) 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 the information which you have requested but we 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. We are therefore unable to comply with it.

The information you have requested is not easily accessible from our electronic systems. To obtain this information would require the manual search and cross-referencing of all relevant records which would exceed the cost limit.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. We could for example provide you with the number of Confirmations of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) used by an NHS Trust, but this information would not show how many migrants were granted permission to work. In addition, we could provide you with information relating to occupations under the standard occupational classifications (SoC) codes for medical and/or dental practitioners but we would not be able to provide you with a breakdown of the actual job title as this information is held in free text fields on our electronic systems.

Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

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. 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.

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 31818. 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 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>