



HM Passport  
Office

Parliamentary and Diplomatic  
Enquiries Team  
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Email [FOI@hmpo.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@hmpo.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website [www.gov.uk/hm-passport-office](http://www.gov.uk/hm-passport-office)

Angie Nickson  
[request-194085-efa7f70e@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-194085-efa7f70e@whatdotheyknow.com)

Reference: FOICR 30452/14

18 February 2014

Dear Ms Nickson

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

Thank you for your email of 21 January, in which you ask for information about passports. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose the following information.

Your information request and Her Majesty's Passport Office response is set out below.

**Please could you state what the letters indicating differing types of passport mean. I am aware of a previous question in 2011 which asks similar information - but on following the link in the answer the webpage is archived and seemingly not available.**

In accordance with the recommendations laid out by ICAO document 9303, document codes are decided upon at the discretion of the Issuing State. However, for commonality, document issuers tend to use the identical code characters depending on the type of document that is being issued. For example:

P = Passport

V = Visa

PT = Travel Document

IP = Passport Card

In keeping with the Freedom of Information Act, we assume that all information can be released to the public unless it is exempt. In line with normal practice we are therefore releasing the information which you requested via [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk).

I hope that this information meets your requirements. I would like to assure you that we have provided you with all relevant information that Her Majesty's Passport Office holds.

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 FOICR 30452/14. 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](mailto: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

**H Reid**  
**Parliamentary and Diplomatic Correspondence Team**