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M Esslemont
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27th August 2020

Dear Ms Esslemont,

Freedom of Information Request reference: 59843, 59572, 59915

Thank you for your e-mails of 3rd, 8th and 10th August 2020, which are also attached at Annex A. Your requests have been aggregated and handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

In response to your request, the Home Office can confirm that under section 12 of the Act, we are not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

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. In order to retrieve, extract and process the data requested, FOI 59843 would take a total of 19-27 hours, FOI 59752 approximately 10 hours and FOI 59915 approximately 13-20 hours. Based on these estimations it would take 42-57 hours to answer your requests. Therefore, we are unable to comply with your requests.

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 can be included in the costs for these purposes. 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.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. For example, you can combine FOI 59843 and FOI 59752 as the data sets overlap, then wait three months to make the request for FOI 59915.

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

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 foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk, quoting reference **59843, 59752, 59915**. If you ask for an

internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request would be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you were to remain dissatisfied after an internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOIA.

Yours sincerely,

The Single Competent Authority

ANNEX A

FOI 59843

Please consider this as a request for information under the FOI Act 2000.

I am requesting the number of potential trafficking victims, whose last National Referral Mechanism (NRM) status was 'Reasonable Grounds decision pending' or 'withdrawn' before RG stage, who opted for Voluntary Return between 1 April 2019 and 1 April 2020.

Please disaggregate this data by first responder name (e.g. 'X police force' rather than 'police') last status ('withdrawn'), and nationality.

FOI 59572

Please provide the number voluntary returns undertaken by individuals, who have a National Referral Mechanism decision or status, between 1 January 2019 and present. Please provide this data disaggregated by:

- Most recent NRM decision / stage (e.g. Positive CG, Pending RG, etc. etc.)
- Month of voluntary return
- Voluntary return 'type' (e.g. 'controlled', 'assisted' etc.)

FOI 59915

Please note that my request for the the first responders attached to instances of detention amongst recognised trafficking victims (case ref 56594) is now delayed by 6 months. Rather than lodging this with the ICO, I would like to submit a fresh request for more timely data as the delay has rendered the original request out-of-date. I understand this will take 20 working days to provide.

Please disregard case ref 56594 and replace the request with the following for my records:

"Please provide the first responder in each instance of the detention of potential and recognised trafficking victims from January 1st 2016 - December 31st 2019. Please name the responder rather than type of responder (e.g. "West Mids Police" rather than "police").

Please provide the data disaggregated by year, first responder, and the last NRM decision (eg. positive Reasonable Grounds, positive Conclusive Grounds, withdrawn etc). Please note that the time limit stipulated should correspond with the period in detention rather than the period of NRM decision-making.""