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[www.gov.uk/ukvi](http://www.gov.uk/ukvi)

FOI Reference: 53478

25 June 2019

Dear Mr Brawley

Thank you for your enquiry of 26 April in which you requested information relating to archives. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I apologise for the delay in replying.

### Information Requested

*Please provide a list of archives consulted or offered the Windrush Landing Cards prior to their destruction by the department.*

### Response

The information you have requested is not held by UK Visas & Immigration because no decision was taken to dispose of 'Windrush' landing cards. It is also not clear from your request what information you are requesting regarding '*archives consulted*' and it would help if you provided clarification should you make another request for information.

With regard to landing cards more generally, the Windrush generation (from the Commonwealth) will have been either citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies or citizens of Independent Commonwealth States (depending upon whether the colony had been granted independence). Neither group were subject to any form of immigration control until the introduction of the Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1962. Although there was provision in the Commonwealth Immigrants Act 1962 to

make a requirement for Commonwealth citizens to complete landing cards, this was never implemented.

Landing cards (either self-completed or completed by an Immigration Officer) were not required for the vast majority of nationals of Independent Commonwealth Countries until the implementation of the Immigration Act 1971 on 1 January 1973. A very small number of cards were completed by Immigration officers for small cohorts of these nationals (for example, students). Landing cards have been routinely disposed of once statistical and biographical data has been recorded.

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](mailto:foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk), quoting reference 53478. 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 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

J Slater  
Central Operations

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>