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19 January 2011

Ref: 1275/16938

Dear Mr Hanson,

Thank you for your correspondence of 12 October and subsequent clarification requesting information relating to Tier 1, Tier 2 (General) and Tier 2 (Intra Company Transfer) of the Points Based System. Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I apologise for the delay in coming back to you.

Please see the information below in answer to your questions.

Question (1)

The table below provides information in relation to the numbers of visas issued in 2008, 2009 and 2010. This includes main applicants and dependants.

|  | 2008   | 2009   | 2010*  |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>Tier 1</b>                          | 12,048 | 31,774 | 15,144 |
| <b>Tier 2 (General)</b>                | 17     | 8,557  | 5,548  |
| <b>Tier 2 (Intra Company Transfer)</b> | 47     | 22,031 | 9,981  |

\* Please note that we can only provide statistics which have been published – currently up to June 2010.

The number of those that actually travelled to and entered the United Kingdom on such visas may not match these numbers. This is because not all those who secured a visa may decide to actually travel.

Please view the following link from the UKBA Statistical website on applications and resolution of entry clearance visas to the United Kingdom as well as Passengers given leave to enter the United Kingdom by purpose of journey, by country of nationality, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals.

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1510supptabs.xls#'1c'!A1>

### Question (2)

I have attached the requested information in the accompanying spreadsheet. The data table shows used Certificates of Sponsorship for the time period 1 January 2008 to 28 October 2010, by job type code and nationality, for Tier 2, categories – ICT, General and Other.

### Question (3)

*Please can you confirm how many people who were awarded an Intra Company Transfer under the above 7 SOC codes were later given a 'Tier 2 General' visa or a 'Tier 1' visa or were given 'Indefinite Leave to Remain'. Also, how many people given Tier 2 ICT visa, with any of the above 7 SOC listed on their Certificate of Sponsorship in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009 are still in the UK at present.*

As mentioned in previous correspondence I can confirm that this information is held by the UK Border Agency 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. Under section 12 of the Act, the UK Border Agency is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit. The information you have requested is not centrally recorded and to locate and retrieve the information would involve data matching between three separate databases which would unfortunately exceed the cost limit. Information relating to the Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) element of the question is not available as SOC codes/occupation information are not be held in a reportable format for ILR applications.

Please see Annex A for further information on applying the £600 cost limit.

As discussed previously we do not hold the information requested in questions (4) and (5).

### Question (6)

Please see the table below.

The table below lists the top ten sponsors by assigned and used Certificates of Sponsorship during the period 1 January to 28 October 2010.

**Top 10 Sponsors 'Assigned Certificates of Sponsorship' 1 January 2010 - 28 October 2010\***

| Sponsor                            | 2010                          | Total         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
|                                    | Intra Company Transfers (ICT) |               |
| Tata Consultancy Services          | 3,570                         | 3,570         |
| Cognizant Technology Solutions Ltd | 2,105                         | 2,105         |
| Infosys Technologies Ltd           | 1,675                         | 1,675         |
| Wipro Technologies                 | 1,355                         | 1,355         |
| IBM UK Ltd                         | 1,105                         | 1,105         |
| Tech Mahindra Limited              | 1,105                         | 1,105         |
| Accenture (UK) Limited             | 935                           | 935           |
| HCL GREAT BRITAIN LIMITED          | 745                           | 745           |
| Capgemini PLC                      | 395                           | 395           |
| Steria Ltd                         | 380                           | 380           |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>21,085</b>                 | <b>21,085</b> |

| Sponsor                            | 2010                          | Total         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
|                                    | Intra Company Transfers (ICT) |               |
| Tata Consultancy Services          | 3,375                         | 3,375         |
| Cognizant Technology Solutions Ltd | 1,910                         | 1,910         |
| Wipro Technologies                 | 1,415                         | 1,415         |
| Infosys Technologies Ltd           | 1,395                         | 1,395         |
| Tech Mahindra Limited              | 1,035                         | 1,035         |
| IBM UK Ltd                         | 985                           | 985           |
| Accenture (UK) Limited             | 810                           | 810           |
| HCL GREAT BRITAIN LIMITED          | 655                           | 655           |
| Capgemini PLC                      | 385                           | 385           |
| Steria Ltd                         | 355                           | 355           |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>19,305</b>                 | <b>19,305</b> |

\*Job Type code is one of:  
 1136 Managers, information and communication technology  
 2131 IT strategy and planning professionals  
 2132 IT, software professionals  
 3131 Technicians, IT operations  
 3132 Technicians, IT user support  
 5242 Engineers, telecommunications  
 5245 Engineers, computer - installation and maintenance

*Figures are rounded to nearest 5*

*† Indicates 1 or 2*

*- Indicates Nil*

*Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown*

**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 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 16938. 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: xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xxx.xx

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  
Freedom of Information Team  
North East, Yorkshire and the Humber Region

## **Annex A**

### Applying the £600 Cost Limit under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

The UK Border Agency is not obliged to comply with any information request where the prescribed costs of supplying you with the information exceed £600. The £600 limit applies to all central government departments and is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 3½ days work per request.

Prescribed costs include those which cover the cost of locating and retrieving information, and preparing our response to you. They do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or disbursements such as photocopying or postage.

I can confirm that we do hold information which you are interested in but have estimated that the cost of answering your request would exceed the £600 limit and we are therefore unable to comply with it. Although your request would at present be too costly to answer, if you refine it so that it falls under the cost limit we will consider it further. You should however be aware that if you break your request down into a series of smaller requests, we might, depending on the circumstances of the case, decline to answer if the aggregated cost of complying exceeds £600, as permitted by the Fees Regulations.

Even if a new request were to fall below the £600 cost limit, the information you request might be withheld under the terms of a number of substantive exemptions contained in part II of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. These exemptions could also make it necessary for us to extend the period for responding beyond the usual 20 working day target if they involve having to consider the public interest balancing test.