

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála

Oifig na bPasanna, Teach Knockmaun, 42-47 Sráid an Mhóta Íochtarach, Baile Átha Cliath 2 D02 TN83

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Passport Office, Knockmaun House, 42-47 Mount Street Lower, Dublin 2 D02 TN83

Mr. Gordon Deegan,

24 May, 2017.

Ref: FOI/REQ/2017/072

Dear Mr. Deegan,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

"The top 20 dates in terms of passport applications made through Embassy London in the period between the start of the January and the end of March of this year.

e.g. March 1st 5,450

February 4th 5,330

January 9th 5,220

The top 20 dates in terms of passport applications made through Northern Ireland Passport Express in the period between the start of January and the end of March this year.

e.g. March 30th 1st 3,020

March 28th 2nd 3,000

Feb 14th 3rd 2,900

Any internal reports or internal and third party correspondence at Embassy London in relation to the sharp rise in passport applications being made through the Embassy London in the first quarter of this year.

The date period this part of the request is from January 1st to the end of March".

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 27 April.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. I have identified 6 records that fall within the scope of your request. The records are listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant 5 records and part-grant 1 record. There are no internal reports at Embassy London in relation to the increase in passport applications being made through the Embassy London in the first quarter of this year.

Right of Appeal

Should you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so in writing to the Freedom of Information Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 76-78 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2 or by email to <u>foi@dfat.ie</u>. A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at <u>foi@dfat.ie</u>, or 01-4082857.

You should make your appeal within 4 weeks (20 working days) from the date of this notification. However, the making of a late appeal may be permitted in appropriate circumstances. The appeal will involve a complete reconsideration of the matter by a more senior member of the staff of this Department.

Yours sincerely,

Passport Service

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