



30 April 2019

Ref: FOI/REQ/2019/136

Dear Mr Ives

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, in which you requested the following:

'The number of Foreign Birth Register applications (citizenship by descent) received between 1st September 2018 and 1st March 2019. A breakdown of the numbers to include the origin (country) and whether applying via parent or grandparent.

Further, I wish to make the request below either as an additional request under the FOI legislation or as part of the same request above:

The number of Foreign Birth Register applications (citizenship by descent) approved between 1st September 2018 and 1st March 2019 and what was the average turnaround time/length of time from receipt to approval.'

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 11 April 2019 and my email of 16 April advising you that additional time was required to complete your request.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case.

Having conducted a search of the Department's records, some of the information for which you have asked is not available in the format you have sought. Where I cannot release data to you, because a record doesn't exist, I have provided an explanation, below.

Additionally, to protect the privacy and safety of individuals, I have partially restricted the presentation of data on both the place of residence of applicants (supplying full numbers only for countries from which we have received more than 20 applications in the given period), and the entitlement to citizenship (from parent or grandparent).

- 1 *The number of Foreign Birth Register applications (citizenship by descent) received between 1st September 2018 and 1st March 2019.*

17,902 applications for entry on the Foreign Births Register were received between 01/09/2018 and 28/02/2019.

- 2 *A breakdown of the number to include the origin (country) and whether applying via parent of grandparent.*

Annex A, below, sets out the countries of residence of applicants whose applications have been received between 01/09/2018 and 28/02/2019. Countries from which 20 or fewer applications have been received in this period have not been listed to protect the privacy and safety of the applicants.

Annex B, below, sets out the entitlement to citizenship claimed by those who have applied in this period.

- 3 *The number of Foreign Birth Register applications (citizenship by descent) approved between 1st September 2018 and 1st March 2019 ...*

5,792 applications for entry on the Foreign Births Register were approved between 01/09/2018 and 28/02/2019.

- 4 *... and what was the average turnaround time/ length of time from receipt to approval.*

Average turnaround time has not been measured on an application by application basis, however, measured by volume in 2018, 88% of applications received were processed within 6 months.

In response to the significant increase in applications received, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade undertook a review of all Foreign Births Registration processes, set up a new, dedicated FBR team, and implemented new policy and procedures for the processing of FBR applications. The purpose of this exercise has been to improve both the security and the efficiency of our processes, to deliver an improved, consistent, customer service while protecting the integrity of citizenship by descent.

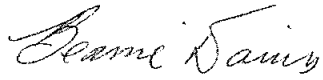
Right of Appeal

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 foi@dfa.ie. 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 foi@dfa.ie, 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernie Davis".

Bernie Davis
Foreign Births Registration

Annex A – Applications for FBR by country 01/09/2018 – 28/02/2019			
AUSTRALIA	599	NETHERLANDS	97
AUSTRIA	37	NEW ZEALAND	333
BELGIUM	47	NIGERIA	23
CANADA	415	SCOTLAND	938
CHINA	59	SINGAPORE	53
DENMARK	34	SOUTH AFRICA	400
ENGLAND	9,840	SPAIN	119
FRANCE	337	SWITZERLAND	76
GERMANY	185	UAE	59
IRELAND	552	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	2,940
ITALY	50	WALES	191
LUXEMBOURG	32		

Note: Countries from which 20 or fewer applications have been received in this period have not been listed to protect the privacy and safety of the applicants.

ANNEX B

FBR claimed through grandparent

FBR claimed through parent*

Total

*parent acquired citizenship through adoption,
FBR, naturalisation or post nuptial declaration

Total

16,329

1,573

17,902