



7 October 2020

Ref: FOI/ REQ/2020/175

Dear Dr Nizar,

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

"1. How many applications have you received for Foreign birth registration since records began? Please provide me with a total as well as a break down by each year. (If the breakdown is time consuming happy to just have the total number).

2. How many applications have been refused since records began?

3. Can you please also provide me the reasons for refusal?

4. What is the current average processing times for each application?"

I am the Deciding Officer in this case.

Having conducted a search of the Department's records, I have not located any documents that fall within the scope of your request. Therefore your request falls for refusal on administrative grounds under Section 15(1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act, as "the record concerned does not exist."

However, the following details relating to Foreign Birth Registration may be of interest to you. The first entry on the Foreign Births Register was made on 19/09/1956. From 19/09/1956 to 06/10/2020 there have been 248,892 entries on the Foreign Births Register.

The number of applications received from 2015 – 2019 are as follows:

Year	Number of Applications Made
2015	6,508
2016	14,021
2017	19,819
2018	25,283
2019	31,908

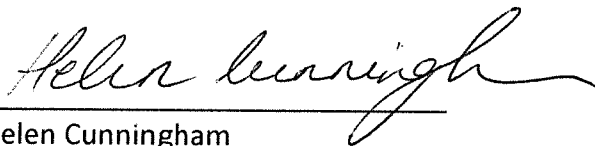
We do not hold historical records on how many applications for Foreign Births Registration have been refused. At present, due to the complex nature of the Foreign Birth Registration it takes between 12 to 18 months to process a completed Foreign Birth Registration application.

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, reading "Helen Cunningham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Helen Cunningham
Foreign Births Registration