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

Our Ref: FOI/REQ/18/316.

Callum Tulley.

16th January, 2019.

Dear Mr. Tulley,

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

1) **The number of times UK citizens from Scotland applied for an Irish passport between the 23rd of June 2014 to the 22nd of June 2015.**

2) **The number of times UK citizens from Scotland applied for an Irish passport between the 23rd of June 2015 to the 22nd of June 2016.**

3) **The number of times UK citizens from Scotland applied for an Irish passport between the 23rd of June 2016 to the 22nd June 2017.**

4) **The number of times UK citizens from Scotland applied for an Irish passport between the 23rd of June 2017 and the 22nd June 2018.**

5) **The number of times UK citizens from Scotland applied for an Irish passport between the 23rd of June 2018 and the 31st of November 2018.**

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 18th December, 2018.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. The Passport Office does not compile data on any other citizenships that an applicant may hold. Tracking of passport applications is in general carried out against channel of application rather than by other metrics, including country of origin. Bearing this in mind, the following general breakdown of applications will give the available detail on the number of passport applications received from Britain from 23rd June 2014 to 31st November 2018 as follows:

Year	Britain
23rd June 2014 to 22nd June 2015.	45,791
23rd June 2015 to 22nd June 2016.	49,479

23rd June 2016 to 22nd June 2017.	78,603
23rd June 2017 to 22nd June 2018.	88,999
23rd June 2018 to 31st November 2018.	45,428

Accordingly, the Passport Office has no records of applications for Irish passports made by UK citizens or by country of origin. By way of explanation the Passport Office issues passports to Irish citizens who make applications for a passport. In order to meet the requirements of the Passports Act 2008, each applicant must demonstrate their Irish citizenship in their application. Entitlement to Irish citizenship is governed by Irish law and in particular the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956, as amended. Irish citizens are not prohibited from holding foreign citizenship in addition to their Irish citizenship.

I am sorry to inform you that there are no records in the Passport Office of the statistical information you are seeking and therefore I must refuse your request under Section 15 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states that an FOI request may be refused if:

'the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken'

Figures for applications from Northern Ireland and Britain for the six years (January to December) from 2012-2017 are available publicly on the passport website under Passport Statistics at https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/faqs/statistics/

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, D02 DX45 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,

Donal O'Driscoll
Passport Office.