



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/17/261

Louis Emanuel
The Daily Telegraph.

25 January, 2018.

Dear Mr. Emanuel,

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:

From the period starting June 2016 to December 2017, please can you send:

- The total number of applications received for Irish citizenship from citizens of the UK and Northern Ireland***
- The amount received in fees/rates for applications for Irish citizenship from citizens of the UK and Northern Ireland***
- The total number of those applications that have been successful***
- The total number rejected***
- The total number pending***
- The total amount received in fees/rates for certificates of citizenship for citizens of the UK and Northern Ireland***
- The total number of passport applications made by citizens of the UK and Northern Ireland***
- The total number of those applications that have been successful***
- The total number rejected***
- The total number pending***

- The total amount received in fees/rates in relation to passport applications and issuing of passports to citizens of the UK and Northern Ireland

Could you please send me the same statistics for the period of December 2014 to June 2016?

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. 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 (FOI) 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’

The Passport Office has no records of applications for Irish citizenship from citizens of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and does not issue certificates of citizenship. It has no records of passport applications made by citizens of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 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.

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 number of passport applications received from Great Britain and Northern Ireland for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017:

Year	Great Britain	Northern Ireland
2014	43,449	48,475
2015	46,229	53,715
2016	63,453	67,582
2017	81,287	81,752

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donal O'Driscoll". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Donal O'Driscoll
Passport Office