



14 August 2017

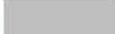
In reply please quote

FOI Request FA 17/07/00368

File Number ADF2017/74827



By email: 

Dear 

Freedom of Information request – decision on request

This letter refers to your request received on 11 July 2017 seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to the following:

For Financial Years 2012-2017

- 1. Number of applications by source countries under visa streams (132A, 132B, 188A, 188B, 188C, and 188E)*
- 2. Number of determination (approved and refused) by countries of origin (top 10 countries) under the visa streams.*
- 3. Number of approvals by nominating state/territories under the visa streams.*
- 4. Number of cancellations under s134 by visa subclasses/streams, by state, by source countries.*
- 5. Visa approvals - age of the applicants at the time of application, broken down into the five year increments by streams and by countries of origin*
- 6. Visa approvals - the level of English possessed at time of application (Proficient, Competent, Functional) by streams and by countries of origin.*

Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access documents or to amend or annotate Departmental records.

Information considered

In reaching my decision, I have considered the following:

- The terms of your request
- The *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- Departmental files identified
- The Australian Information Commissioner's guidelines relating to access to documents held by government
- Consultations with the relevant business area in the Department

Legislation

A copy of the FOI Act is available for your reference from www.legislation.gov.au/Browse/ByTitle/Acts/InForce/0/0/Principal

Documents in scope

Section 17 of the FOI Act provides that where an agency can produce a written document containing the information in discrete form by the use of a computer, and the work required would not substantially and unreasonably divert resources of the agency from its other operations, the agency shall deal with the request as if it were a request for access to a written document so produced.

The Department has created one document that is relevant to the scope of your request. The document is provided in full at Attachment A – Documents Released.

Decision on access

The Department has undertaken reasonable searches to identify any documents that would be relevant. After consulting with the relevant business area I am satisfied that all relevant documents (electronic or hard copy) in possession of the Department that fall within the scope of your request are provided to you.

Part 1 to 5

In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, the Visa Statistics Section has used its computer system to produce two documents that contains the requested information. The data produced in these documents was in possession of the Department on 11 July 2017 on receipt of your FOI request. My decision is to release the document in full.

Part 6

Section 24A provides that the Department may refuse a request for access to a document if all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document and the Department is satisfied that the document is in the Department's possession but cannot be found or does not exist.

No discrete document currently exists in the possession of the Department that contains the data you have sought in part 6 of your request. The Department is not able to produce the data from its computer systems as the data is not captured by the Department in a way that could be reported on. As such, whilst the data you have requested may exist within the Department's computer systems, the work required to produce that data would interfere unreasonably with the operations of the Department.

Access to the information you have requested in part 6 of your request is therefore refused under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act.

Review rights

Internal review

If you disagree with my decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of my decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision-maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days.

Applications for review should be sent to:

Freedom of Information
Department of Immigration and Border Protection
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Or by email to: foi.reviews@border.gov.au

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of my decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a review request to the OAIC, please see FOI fact sheet 12 '*Freedom of information – Your review rights*', available online at www.oaic.gov.au.

How to make a complaint about the handling of your FOI request

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner if you have concerns about how the department has handled your request under the FOI Act. Information about how to submit a complaint is also available at www.oaic.gov.au.

Contacting the FOI Section

If you wish to discuss this matter, you may contact me using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely



Authorised Decision Maker
Freedom of Information Section
Department of Immigration and Border Protection
Email: foi@border.gov.au

Attachments

- Attachment A – Documents Released