



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

Ms. Lesley Colquhoun

Ref: FOI/Req/19/107

28th March, 2019

Dear Ms. Colquhoun,

I refer to your recently submitted request for information, made under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, in which you requested the following:

Can you tell me the number of people residing in Scotland that have applied for an Irish passport for every month between June 2016 and February 2019?

Can you tell me the number of people applying for an Irish passport at the Irish Consulate in Edinburgh every month between June 2016 and February 2019?

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 7th March 2019.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. By way of explanation, 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.

Tracking of passport applications is in general carried out against channel of application rather than by other metrics, including country of origin. The Passport Office has no records of applications for Irish passports made by country or region of origin. As a result we have no record on the number of applications made by people residing in Scotland

Applications from people eligible for Irish passports and living in Britain are posted directly to the Passport Office in Cork or they are posted to the embassy in London who, in turn, forward the applications to the Passport Office in Cork for processing. Consequently, we have no information on applications received through our consulate in Edinburgh.

Therefore your request falls for refusal 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’

Bearing this in mind, the following general breakdown of applications will give the available detail on the total number of passport applications received from Britain in 2018 as 98,544. Figures for

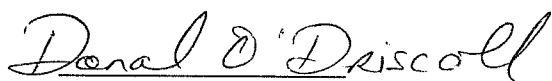
applications from Northern Ireland and Britain for the six years (January to December) from 2012-2017 are available publicly on the passport website under Passport Statistics at <https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/faqs/statistics/>

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.