



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

Mr. Michael Goodier.

Ref: FOI/Req/2019/146

11 April, 2019.

Dear Mr. Goodier,

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:

A) Please may I have the number of Irish passport applications from people in the United Kingdom for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and so far in 2019.

B) Please may I have the above (A) broken down if possible by UK town of residency, or if that is not possible, UK county, or if that is not possible the first part of the UK post code.

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 4th April 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. 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, and in regard to part A of your request the general breakdown of applications will give the available detail on the total number of passport applications received from Northern Ireland and Britain for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (up to 31 March) as follows:

Year	Northern Ireland	Britain
2015	53,715	46,229
2016	67,582	63,453
2017	82,274	80,752
2018	89,797	87,544
2019 (up to 31 March)	51,153	38,795

The Passport Office has no record on the number of applications for Irish passports made by people residing in the U.K. by town/city/post code and therefore part B of 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’.

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.