



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. Shay Fennelly.

Ref: FOI/Req/2019/179

20th June, 2019.

Dear Mr. Fennelly,

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:

- 1. How many citizens of Saudi Arabia have purchased Irish Passports?**
- 2. Who are they?**
- 3. How much have they paid in each case to obtain an Irish Passport?**
- 4. How many work for the Saudi Arabian government?**
- 5. What investment has Saudi Arabians made in Ireland?**

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 31th May 2019.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case.

In order to meet the requirements of the Passports Act 2008, each applicant for an Irish passport must demonstrate their Irish citizenship with their application. Entitlement to Irish citizenship is governed by Irish law and in particular the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act 1956, as amended.

Irish passports cannot be purchased. Administrative fees for the issuance of a passport are provided for by Statutory Instrument. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade can, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, make regulations fixing the fees to be charged for passports which are brought into effect by Statutory Instrument under section 3 of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers (Provision of Services) Act 1993, as amended by section 28 of the Passports Act 2008. The current fees for applications for a passport are available publicly on the passport website under Passport Fees at <https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/top-passport-questions/passport-fees>

The Passport Office does not compile data on any other citizenships that an applicant for an Irish passport may hold. Consequently, the Passport Office has no information on how many citizens of Saudi Arabia are holders of Irish passports or who they are. Neither does the Passport Office have information on, if any, Irish passport holders that work for the Saudi Arabia government or what investment Saudi Arabians made in Ireland.

As the Passport Office has no records of the information you are seeking under points 1, 2,3, 4 and 5 of your request 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:

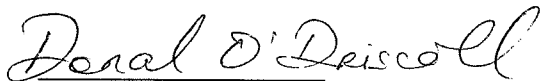
'the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken'

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.