

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. Jack Horgan Jones.

Ref: FOI/Req/19/279.

17th October, 2019.

Dear Mr. Jones,

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 Data Protection Impact Assessment of the Public Services Card undertaken by the Passport Office.

I also refer to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 25th September 2019.

I am the Deciding Officer in this case. By way of context, from 29 March, 2016, the Passport Service had required all first time passport applicants, aged 18 and above, who are resident in Ireland to submit a copy of their Public Services Card (PSC) with their passport application. This also applied to adult applicants whose most recent passport expired more than five years previously and to adult applicants whose passport was issued before 1 January 2006 and had been reported as lost, stolen or damaged.

The Passport Service will continue to accept a copy of the PSC as valid verification of identity for first time applicants and other applicable categories. Where the applicant does not present such a card, an application can proceed if an applicant either presents original government issued photographic identification (such as a driver's licence or a passport from another country) or attends for interview in person at the Passport Offices in Dublin or Cork.

The PSC is one document to allow an applicant to satisfy the Minister as to their identity as allowed for under the Passport Act (2008) Section 7. A Data Protection Impact Assessment is not required for each possible document that an applicant may produce to satisfy the Minister that they are an Irish citizen or as to their identity.

The data privacy notice for the Passport Service is on our website: <https://www.dfa.ie/about-us/our-commitments/privacy-policy/passport-service-privacy-policy/>

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:

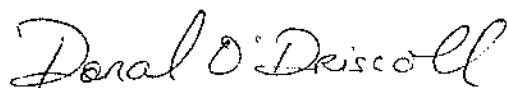
'the record concerned does not exist or cannot be found after all reasonable steps to ascertain its whereabouts have been taken'

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.