



Home Office
Identity & Passport Service

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Xxxxx Xxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Reference: FOICR 24352/12

23 October 2012

Dear xxxxxxxxxxxx

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 September, in which you ask for information on passports issued by Output Area. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose the information set out in the enclosed Annex.

In keeping with the Freedom of Information Act, we assume that all information can be released to the public unless it is exempt. In line with normal practice we are therefore releasing the information which you requested via the Home Office website.

I hope that this information meets your requirements. I would like to assure you that we have provided you with all relevant information that the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) holds.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference FOICR 24352/12. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: FOIRequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by members of staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Xxx Xxxxxx
Parliamentary and Correspondence Management Team

Freedom of Information request from xxxxxxxx (reference FOICR 24352/12)

Information requested

I would like to know in a CSV file format how many passports are held by Output Area (as defined by the Office of National Statistics). If not held by Output Area then by either Postcode Sector (UB1 1xx or CF1 1xx) or Postcode Area (UB1 xxx or CF1 xxx).

I believe you will need to speak to your Geographical Information Systems team who should be able to provide this without it being licensed or it breaching Data Protection Act.

Response

1. The attached file shows the number of passports issued by postcode area (first 3/4 digits) in 2011 (calendar year).

2. This data shows passports issued. We are not able to precisely answer the request as to "how many passports are held". The address data we hold was the registered address at the point of application. People may move around so this is not definitive as to passport penetration by geographical area.

3. We have only provided one year of data (2011) due to FOI cost constraints. Converting 5.5 million data items (for 1 year's worth of data) into this format is time consuming. Giving a 10 year history (required to examine passport penetration rates) would have breached the cost limit. We believe that 1 year of data should be sufficient to extrapolate trends.

4. Please note that we have removed all post code areas with fewer than 10 passports issued so that individuals cannot be identified.

Date

23 October