



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/111

Date: 15 September 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the request which you have made under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 for access to records held by this Department, as follows:

- a) All documents containing statistics in relation to the length of time it takes for a first time passport to be issued in the period since 2016.**
- b) All documents in relation to the length of time it takes to renew a passport in the period since 2016.**
- c) All documents relating to the reasons for the delays in issuing and/or renewing passports**
- d) in particular, all documents in relation to the reasons for the delays in issuing first time passports.**
- e) All documents containing any correspondence between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Justice (and/or any other government department) in relation to delays in issuing passports and/or the reasons therefor.**

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on 20 May 2021, and to my email of 10 August 2021 inviting you to narrow the scope of your request, to which no response has been received.

I have made a decision to refuse your request on administrative grounds under Section 15 (1) (c) of the FOI Act which states that;

15. (1) A head to whom an FOI request is made may refuse to grant the request where—

... (c) in the opinion of the head, granting the request would, by reason of the number or nature of the records concerned or the nature of the information concerned, require the retrieval and examination of such number of records or an examination of such kind of the records concerned as to cause a substantial and unreasonable interference with or disruption of work (including disruption of work in a particular functional area) of the FOI body concerned,

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 or by email to foi@dfa.ie.

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

David Ormond
FOI Section