

J.Visvalingam


From: FOI Requests <FOIRequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 May 2017 09:46
To: 'info@jayvisva.co.uk'
Subject: 43976 - Jeyarajan Visvalingam - 2017-05-18 (acknowledgement)

Thank you for contacting the Home Office with your request.

This has been assigned to a caseworker (case ref **43976**). We will aim to send you a full response by **15/6/2017** which is twenty working days from the date we received your request.

If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,


FOI Requests
Home Office

From: info@jayvisva.co.uk [mailto:info@jayvisva.co.uk]
Sent: 17 May 2017 17:19
To: FOI Requests
Subject: Freedom of Information Request

Dear Sirs,

I write to you requesting for a freedom of information request

Background to this freedom of information request

I note from my own experience as a solicitor and a member of the local community that almost all the applications (SET P) made by the Refugees from Sri Lanka have been put on hold without making any decisions from or around September 2015. Although the Home Office regularly provides updates to the applicants, barring some applicants the reasons for such delay do not appear to be compelling or have any weight attached to it. You would appreciate that on most of the occasions the reasons given by the Home Office for such delay have been 'your case raises exceptionally complex issues' or 'due to outstanding policy issues'.

It has been widely believed that the Home Office has put decision making on SET (P) Applications from Sri Lankan Refugees on hold as it was waiting for the Home Office Policy Team to publish its fact-finding following its visit to Sri Lanka in order to assess the ground situation. Despite the Home Office releasing its "Country policy and information note: Tamil separatism, Sri Lanka, March 2017" on 31st March 2017 in its website, it does not appear that the Home Office has expedited its decision making process for the applications already in the pipeline. In almost all the cases, the time-frame given to all the applicants have been extended on more than one occasion or no further updates have been given.

The prolonged delays have caused so much anxiety and practical problems for the refugees including finding employments, education, marriage, right to rent, opening a bank account, applying for driving licences, starting up new businesses, extension of spouse visas, school admissions etc.

I am therefore making this freedom of information request to the Home Office in the public interest. I intend to publish the disclosed information upon receipt to the public so that they can benefit from the disclosure.

Details of Freedom of Information Request

1. How many SET (P) Applications made by the Refugees from Sri Lanka are pending decisions by the Home Office for more than 6 months and of which, how many of them are pending for more than 12 months?
2. What are the reasons behind the delay in making decision in those applications?
3. When is the Home Office planning to make decisions in those applications, if not within the published/intended service standard?
4. Please provide information and/or documents that are available online or otherwise in the respect of this request.

I believe that the above request is valid and reasonable and therefore the Home Office will disclose the requested information and documents in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Yours faithfully,

Jeyarajan Visvalingam
Solicitor

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FOI Reference: 43976

5 June 2017

Dear Sir or Madam

Thank you for your enquiry of 17 May in which you requested information on SET (P) applications. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Information Requested

- 1. How many SET (P) Applications made by the Refugees from Sri Lanka are pending decisions by the Home Office for more than 6 months and of which, how many of them are pending for more than 12 months?*
- 2. What are the reasons behind the delay in making decision in those applications?*
- 3. When is the Home Office planning to make decisions in those applications, if not within the published/ intended service standard?*
- 4. Please provide information and/or documents that are available online or otherwise in the respect of this request.*

Response

Question 1 – We are able to provide you with the information as set out in the attached Annex. We have provided you with data for the last calendar year. These statistics have been taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.

Question 2 – We aim to process 98% of straightforward applications within 6 months, where a case cannot be decided within this timescale we will contact the applicant to explain why.

Question 3 – We will make a decision on each case as soon as possible.

Question 4 – Details of UKVI service standards can be found here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration/about/about-our-services>

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 43976. 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
3rd Floor, Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

e-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff 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 faithfully



Customer Planning & Performance

We value your feedback, please use the link below to access a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our service to you:
<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG>

FOI Number 43976

FOI Requestor -

Details of Freedom of Information Request

1. How many SET (P) Applications made by the Refugees from Sri Lanka are pending decisions by the Home Office for more than 6 months and of which, how many of them are pending for more than 12 months?

Our records indicate that...

Table 1. The number of SET (P) Applications made by the Refugees from Sri Lanka that are pending decisions by the Home Office for more than 6 months and of which, how many of them are pending for more than 12 months

Months Pending a Decision	Number of Applications
more than 6 months	550
more than 12 months	185

Notes

Based on the WiP (Work In Progress) report as at 31-Dec-2016.

Case Type is 'Settlement Protection - ILR'. (SET(P)).

Nationality is 'Sri Lanka'.

Figure for 'more than 6 months' includes those for 'more than 12 months'.

Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 .

Figures can only be provided up until 31-Dec-2016 in line with Published Migration Statistics.

These statistics have been taken from a live operational database. As such, numbers may change as information on that system is updated.