



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Our Ref: Fol/Req/21/308

Email: eoghanyoungmurphy@hotmail.com

Date 28th January 2022

Dear Mr Murphy

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:

“Under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, I would like to request:

- 1) The total number of cases of suspected passport fraud that the department, or the Passport Office, investigated in (i) 2019 (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2021***
- 2) The total number of cases of suspected passport fraud that the department, of the Passport Office, passed on to the Gardaí for investigation in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2021***
- 3) The total number of passports that were cancelled because of suspected fraud in (i) 2019 (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2021***
- 4) A list of the most common types of passport fraud in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020 and (iii) 2021”***

I refer also to the acknowledgement of your request which was sent to you on **11th January 2022**

A record has been created in order to answer parts 1, 2 and 3 of your request. The record is listed in the schedule attached. I have made a decision to grant the record.

In relation to part 4 of your request, no such record currently exists. If the department were to create it, as it did for parts 1-3 of your request, it would likely be refused under section 32 (1) (c) (Law enforcement and public safety) of the FOI Act, which states that;

“32. (1) A head may refuse to grant an FOI request if access to the record concerned could, in the opinion of the head, reasonably be expected to —

... (c) facilitate the commission of an offence.”

In my opinion, the release of such records could reasonably be expected to have the effect described.

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. A fee applies for an appeal for access to non-personal information; the level of this fee has been set at €30, (€10 for medical card holders). A copy of the medical card should be provided to avail of the reduced fee. For methods of payment, please contact FOI Unit at foi@dfa.ie, or 01-4082618.

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



Katie Carney
Passport Service
Dept. of Foreign Affairs