



21 May 2020

Mr Afolabi Olamide

BY EMAIL: foi+request-5471-00ce28ca@righttoknow.org.au

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 19/08/00536

File Number: OBJ2019/45695

Dear Mr Olamide

Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision

On 5 August 2019, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) received a request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a decision on your request for access under the FOI Act.

1 Scope of request

You have requested access to the following documents:

- '1) Number of partner visa applications lodged in the Australian Visa processing centre in Pretoria from 1 January 2018 and to date (11 June 2019) by Nigerian nationality applicant*
- 2) Number of partner visa applications by Nigerian nationality that were successful between 1 January 2018 to date (11 June 2019).*
- 3) Number of partner visa applications by Nigerian nationality that were refused, between 1 January 2018 to 11 June 2019.*
- 4) What is the actual average waiting time for processing partner visa applications submitted by Nigerian nationals from 1 January 2018 to date (11 June 2019) to the visa processing centre in Pretoria.'*

2 Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access documents or to amend or annotate records.

3 Relevant material

In reaching my decision I referred to the following:

- the terms of your request dated 5 August 2019
- advice from Departmental officers with responsibility for matters relating to the documents to which you sought access
- the FOI Act
- Guidelines published by the Office of the Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the FOI Guidelines)

4 Documents in scope of request

The Department has identified one document as falling within the scope of your request. This document was created by the Department to respond to your request under s 17(1) of the FOI Act.

Advice from the relevant business area noted that the data sought by you is able to be produced from systems in a way that would provide all of the information you are seeking. The relevant business area has produced the following document in relation to your FOI request:

- For date range 1 January 2018 to 30 June 2019:
 - Number of partner visa applications lodged, granted and refused in the Australian Visa processing centre in Pretoria, by Nigerian nationality, and
 - average waiting time for processing partner visa applications submitted by Nigerian nationals to the Australian Visa processing centre in Pretoria.

5 Decision

I am satisfied that I have been provided with the only relevant document to consider in my decision. I have considered the document prepared by the relevant business area and I am satisfied that no exemptions apply. Therefore, the decision in relation to the document in the possession of the Department, which falls within the scope of your request is as follows:

- Release one document in full.

6 Legislation

A copy of the FOI Act is available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020C00110>. If you are unable to access the legislation through this website, please contact our office for a copy.

7 Your review rights

Internal Review

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of this decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe a review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days.

Applications for review should be sent to:

By email to: foi.reviews@homeaffairs.gov.au

OR

By mail to:
Freedom of Information Section
Department of Home Affairs
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of this decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a request for a review to the OAIC, please see Fact Sheet 12 "Freedom of information – Your review rights", available online at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-review-process>.

8 Making a complaint

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your request.

Your enquiries to the Australian Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Email enquiries@oaic.gov.au

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify the Department of Home Affairs as the relevant agency.

9 Contacting the FOI section

Should you wish to discuss this decision, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Section at foi@homeaffairs.gov.au.

(signed electronically)

Position Number 60090762
Authorised Decision Maker
Department of Home Affairs