

Xxxxxx Xxxxxx

Reference: FOICR 17199/11

Date: 24 January 2011

Dear Xxxxxxx

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your e-mail of 22 December, in which you ask for information on the abolition of Identity Cards. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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 Identity and Passport Service (IPS) 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 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 17199/11. 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 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

X Xxxxxxx
Parliamentary & Correspondence Management Team



Freedom of Information request from David Parker reference 17199/11

1. How much has/is/will it cost you to write to existing UK ID Card Holders advising them of the abolition and that no refund will be given? This enquiry covers all correspondence sent already and that proposed.

Two letters have been sent to ID card holders. The first letter was sent to advise them that the Coalition Government was seeking to enact legislation to scrap ID cards and destroy the National Identity Register. A second letter was sent to advise cardholders that the Identity Documents Act 2010 had come into force and advising when the cards ceased to be valid travel documents and the National Identity Register would be destroyed. The total cost of issuing these letters was approximately £14,300.

2. Has financial provision been made for legal costs associated with defending judicial challenges in respect of compensation for the loss of use of the UK ID Card before the 10 year validity? If so how much?

No provision has been made to cover legal costs relating to any action in respect of defending actions for compensation.

3. Has financial provision been made for the payment of compensation (or similar) as an exceptional circumstance in respect of claims made by holders of the cards directly to the Home Office? How much?

Provision has not been made for payment of compensation.

4. a) How much has it cost you to respond to this e-mail enquiry? b) How many other e-mail enquiries have you received regarding the abolition without refund of the UK ID Card? c) How much has it cost to respond to these enquiries. (include staff costs please)

a) The cost of replying is within the £600 FOI cost limit.

b) Records are not held in such a way for us to be able to breakdown correspondence to separate those received by e-mail. However, from 6 May 2010 to 22 December we received 392 pieces of correspondence in which there is mention of the abolition of refunding/scrapping of ID cards.

c) The costs of handling cases are within usual administration costs.

5. Does the Home Office intend to defend legal claims seeking compensation for the loss of service to existing ID card holders who purchased the card? If not what alternative strategy has been developed?

The Identity Documents Act 2010 makes no provision for refunds to be provided to applicants who paid for their cards. IPS will defend any legal claims seeking a refund or compensation.

Date: 24 January 2011