



Home Office

## Identity & Passport Service

Xxxxxx XXXXXXXX  
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Reference: FOICR 23246/12

Date: 24 July 2012

Headquarters  
Identity and Passport Service  
Parliamentary & Correspondence  
Management Team  
4th Floor, Peel Building, SE  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Tel (0207) 752 7362  
Fax (0870) 336 9175  
Email [hqenquiries@ips.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hqenquiries@ips.gsi.gov.uk)  
Web [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ips](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/ips)

Dear XXXXXXXX

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your e-mail of 25 June, in which you ask for information about child passport renewals. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of information Act 2000.

I am able to disclose some of the information set out in the enclosed Annex.

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 Home Office 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 the Identity and Passport Service (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 23246/12. 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](mailto: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 XXXXXXXX**  
**Parliamentary & Correspondence Management Team**

**Freedom of Information request from xxxxxxxxxx (reference 23246/12)****Information requested**

**Pleased see the questions and the FOI responses below:-**

**1. The number of passport child renewal applications received during the year 2011-2012.**

Our records indicate that 956,953 Child renewal applications were received by IPS (UK) in the 2011 -2012 financial year.

**2. The number of passport child renewal applications received during the year 2011-2012 in which steps were taken to verify the identity of the countersignatory.**

This is part of the examination process. We contact the countersignatory via letter or phone to verify details about the application. This is done on a discretionary basis and therefore we do not keep any data on verifying the identity of the countersignatory

**3. The number of passport child renewal applications received during the year 2011-2012 in which steps were taken to verify the identity of the countersignatory in which the child applicant was of African descent.**

Information not held. Child passport applications have parental details. However this information is not captured electronically and held in data form. The only information we require is that which would confirm the persons eligibility to hold a UK passport.

**4. Disclosure of all IPS policy regarding verification of the identity of countersignatories.**

The purpose of confirming a passport applicant's countersignatory is not to confirm the identity of the countersignatory, but that of the applicant he or she has countersigned for.

IPS policy on countersignatories is viewable on the internet at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/agencies-public-bodies/ips/passports-policy-publications/countersignatories?view=Binary>

**Date**

**24 July 2012**