



Home Office

Identity & Passport Service

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Reference: FOICR 20223/11

2 November 2011

Dear XXXXXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 5 October. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked:-

Please could IPS forward a copy of the final recommendation made to the Minister regarding the proposed closure of the Newport passport office following the conclusion of the consultation period.

I can confirm that the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) holds the information requested. Please see the attached Annex. The information in the Annex is the relevant extract from the document in which this final recommendation to the Minister is contained. It is unredacted and I would like to assure you that we have provided you with all relevant information that IPS holds.

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. However, if you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of any aspect of our handling of your application by submitting your complaint to the address below and quoting the reference FOICR 20223/11:

Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Email: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

During the internal review the department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by members of staff who were not involved in providing you with this response.

Should you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you will have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the FOI Act.

Yours sincerely

Xxxxxx Xxxxxxx

Head of Parliamentary and Correspondence Management Team

Annex

Response to FOI 20223/11

4. We have taken account of the responses to consultation from staff, the trade unions, and other stakeholders, including MPs, Welsh Assembly members, the Newport City Council and others, and the report of the Welsh Affairs Committee. We have also taken account of other changes – particularly the impact of voluntary exit schemes that have led to some 170 operational staff leaving IPS since the autumn.
5. We now propose:
- to cease the processing of postal and online applications in Newport.
 - to retain or consolidate other functions in Newport, which will keep about 150 FTE posts in Newport.
 - to use the opportunity at the same time to consolidate some other operational functions at our other main sites.
 - to use lease breaks in Glasgow, Durham, Newport and elsewhere to reduce our estate.
6. These proposals will:
- lead to a surplus of about 120 FTE posts in Newport (compared to the original proposal to make 300 posts surplus there).
 - achieve the same impact on reducing capacity as closure of the Newport office by 300 posts, taking account of those who have already left voluntarily.
 - reduce our estate capacity by 15%.
 - save £22.6m over the CSR period (provided that we can run a voluntary exit scheme this autumn).

Recommendation

7. That you agree to: (a) the revised proposals for Newport and the rest of the operational estate; (b) the Summary of Responses being published (Annex A); (c) the Response to the Welsh Affairs Committee (Annex B).