

Freedom of Information Request

FOI/AH/15/38

EXTERNAL RESEARCH ON PROVISION OF IMMIGRATION ADVICE

12 August 2015

Hi,

I am doing a social impact report into the services provided by a group of advice agencies in Hull and East Yorkshire, including some regulated by OISC.

I'm trying to find reports, articles, studies or statistics on the issue of immigrants being exploited by people or organisations that should not be giving immigration advice because they are not registered – I have read about various prosecutions in your newsletter and some of the quotes are very useful. I wondered if you were aware of any further research on this issue?

Also, are you able to provide any summary statistics of the number of cases prosecuted each year, or number of cases investigated? I would not require the names of individuals/companies or any further detail. To be clear, the purpose is not in any way to suggest the industry is not well regulated, but merely to highlight the scale of the issue and promote the use of good quality, regulated services like the ones provided by the organisations included in my report.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

RESPONSE

17 August 2015

Dear,

Thank you for your request dated 12th August 2015, in which you ask for the number of cases prosecuted by the OISC each year.

I am the Commissioner's Information Officer and it is my responsibility to reply to enquiries such as yours. I can confirm that the OISC holds this information, which is exempt under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act because the information is accessible to you as it is already in the public domain. I have included below a link to the OISC website containing the Annual Report and Accounts for the OISC from 2006. Information on our prosecutions for each year are contained within the report for each year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-report-and-accounts-oisc>

If you require information prior to 2006 please do let me know and I will endeavour to retrieve this information.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request. Please quote the above reference number in any request for an internal review.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Commissioner for a decision. Details on how to do this are on his website at <http://ico.org.uk/>.

Regards

For and on behalf of the Immigration Commissioner

