

The department received a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) requesting the following:-

'I would like the statistical data for the most recent relevant year detailing the number of work permits issued for those coming to work in the U.K. Also, to show countries from which individuals originate.'

Response

The table below shows the total number of work permit applications submitted by people who were outside of the UK at the time of their application, which were approved in the financial year 03/04, broken down nationality. The figures do not include applications from people changing employment, or extending their employment in the UK.

Note: Statistics provided are a breakdown of the top ten nationalities only. However, those ten countries account for almost 70% of approved applications.

Total number of 'Out of Country' applications* approved between 01/04/03 and 31/03/04	
INDIA	19,679
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	19,465
BANGLADESH	6,272
PHILIPPINES	4,735
SOUTH AFRICA	4,529
PAKISTAN	3,524
AUSTRALIA	3,309
POLAND	3,258
CANADA	2,516
CHINA PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF	2,498
Others	29,323
TOTAL	99,108
*NB: Some applications are for groups of people e.g. a touring opera company. This is considered as one application in these statistics.	