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Xxxxx Xxxxxxx

Our reference: FOICR 9161/08

12 May 2008

Dear Xxxxxxx,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Thank you for your email of 23 March in which you ask for the breakdown of the production costs of a passport. You also ask for information on non-direct costs and the disposal of that extra revenue. We are now in a position to offer a full reply to your request.

I am pleased to be able to disclose the information that you requested to you.

I would like to request to see a breakdown in the costs of producing a passport and the percentage by how much those individual costs have risen since the UK Passport Service was created as an agency a decade or so ago.

So for example I would like to know of the £72 it costs for an adult passport I would like to know:

**Cost of materials per passport
Cost of manhours per passport
Postage Costs
Other associated costs**

Profit or revenue not directly associated with cost of producing passport (for example license fee charged by HM treasury?)

We believe that the information that you have asked for is already reasonably accessible to you. It can be accessed by logging onto the Identity and Passport Service (IPS)

For advice on how and where to obtain a passport, call the Passport Adviceline on 0870 521 0410 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

You can also email info@passport.gov.uk or visit www.ips.gov.uk



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website under the attached link: - <http://.ips.gov.uk/passport/faqs-fees-adultpassport.asp>

Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act exempts the Identity and Passport Service from complying with the duty to supply you with this information on the grounds that it is already in the public domain. Should you have difficulties in accessing this information by the means listed above please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Breakdown of costs for the last three years

Below is the breakdown for the last three years. Unfortunately records beyond that period are unavailable.

	Composition of adult fee 2005-6	Composition of adult fee 2006-7	Composition of adult fee 2007-8
	£	£	£
Application processing	£14.01	£14.49	£14.67
FCO consular protection	£9.65	£9.65	£15.12
Book production	£5.00	£12.25	£12.25
Secure delivery	£3.00	£3.00	£3.00
Anti fraud initiatives	£14.51	£15.88	£16.06
Authentication by Interview	£0.00	£5.88	£5.88
Administrative	£4.82	£4.85	£5.02
Total	£51.00	£66.00	£72.00

I am most interested in knowing how many non-direct costs there are in producing passports and what happens to that extra revenue.

The increases over that time have largely been due to three things.

- 1) The premium we pay over to FCO has increased over the last year (by £5.47 for an adult passport)
- 2) The costs for a passport book have increased (by £7.25) due to the introduction of the biometric element
- 3) Interview Office Network has been introduced

Other costs have increased slightly due to higher wage costs, inflation, etc.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting your complaint to the below address quoting reference FOICR 9161/08

Information Rights Team
Information and Record Management Service
Home Office
4th Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

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Email: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

During the independent 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 Freedom of Information Act.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The department therefore, will be simultaneously releasing to the public the information you requested together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

I hope that you find this information of interest, and would like to assure you that you have been supplied with all relevant information that the IPS holds.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of the Identity and Passport Service

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