



UK Visas  
& Immigration

Freedom of Information  
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FOI Reference: 44472

18 July 2017

Dear Mr Nason

Thank you for your enquiry of 29 June, in which you requested a variety of information regarding UKVI teams responsible for investigating compliance with the immigration sponsorship licence regimes under Tiers 2,4 & 5 of the Points Based System. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### Information Requested

*I write to make a FOI request about the teams responsible for investigating compliance with the immigration sponsorship license regimes under Tiers 2, 4 & 5 of the Points Based System.*

- 1. How many officers are a part of the Sponsor Investigations Teams (as referred to in the "Points-based system sponsor compliance visits guidance" (<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/sy...>)*
- 2. How is the team responsible for ensuring sponsorship compliance structured, including number of individuals involved in each geographic location, broken down by role and rank of staff?*
- 3. What are the contact details; including phone, fax, email and postal addresses for each regional hub?*
- 4. What is the budget for the sponsorship compliance team - or, if this figure is not available, and to put it in a more general way, what is the overall Home Office budget for ensuring compliance with the sponsorship regime?*

5. How many sponsors are recorded as legally represented?

## UKVI Response

**This information is accurate as of 05 July 2017.**

1. How many officers are a part of the Sponsor Investigations Teams (as referred to in the "Points-based system sponsor compliance visits guidance" (<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/sy...>))

There are four officers that are a part of the Sponsor Investigations Teams, as referred to in the "Points-based system sponsor compliance visits guidance. This figure does not include associated management who have a number of responsibility. The number of officers deployed to this role is subject to change. The figure of four officers was correct as at 05 July 2017.

2. How is the team responsible for ensuring sponsorship compliance structured, including number of individuals involved in each geographic location, broken down by role and rank of staff?

The sponsor compliance network comprises the following number of staff at each grade:

Table 1

<b>Grade</b>	<b>No of staff</b>
Grade 7 Assistant Director	1
Senior Executive officer (SEO)	3
Higher Executive Officer (HEO)	13
Executive Officer (EO)	71
Administrative Officer (AO)	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

This staffing level is subject to change. This number of staff was correct as at 05 July 2017.

Table 2

<b>Location</b>	<b>No of staff</b>
South London	25
Central London	20
Feltham / Hounslow	15
Bedford & Solihull	9
Glasgow / Newcastle & Belfast	9
Cardiff & Bristol	8
Manchester	5
Higher Education Assurance Team	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

The amount of staff deployed in various locations is subject to change. These deployments were correct as at 05 July 2017.

*3. What are the contact details, including phone, fax, email and postal address for each regional hub?*

The compliance network is based across a number of operational delivery locations and operates as a flexible delivery mechanism, coordinated from the centre. To release direct contact details, including phone, fax, email and postal address for each regional hub would have a disruptive effect on regional compliance operations. To disclose this information would impact on the department's ability to offer an effective public service, or meet our wider objectives or purpose; including the disruptive effects of disclosure on services, by having to redirect resources in to managing the effect of disclosure.

Any correspondence should be directed centrally using the published contact information available on the **gov.uk website**.

*4. What is the budget for the sponsorship compliance team - or, if this figure is not available, and to put it in a more general way, what is the overall Home Office budget for ensuring compliance with the sponsorship regime?*

The overall budget for ensuring compliance with the sponsorship regime is consolidated within wider UKVI operational budgets.

*5. How many sponsors are recorded as legally represented?*

The number of Tiers 2, 4 & 5 Sponsors licensed under the points-based System that have a legal representative linked to their sponsor licence is 11,560.

**Note 1: Based on the published Tier 2&5 and Tier 4 Registers of Sponsors on 05-July-2017.**

**Note 2: A Sponsor can appear on both Registers, but is only counted once in having a representative on their licence.**

**Note 3: A sponsor may, during its interaction with UKVI appoint a representative to act on its behalf in relation to a specific issue, without having the representative formally appointed on its sponsor licence.**

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 **44472**. 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  
3rd Floor, Peel Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

email: [info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff 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

C. Walls  
Customer Planning & Performance

We value your feedback, please use the link below to access a brief anonymous survey to help us improve our service to you:

<http://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/s/108105TAZNG>