

Alexander Barnes-Ross

Email: [REDACTED]

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FOIRequests@homeoffice.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/ukvi

FOI Reference: 2025 17786

23 January 2026

Dear Alexander Barnes-Ross,

Thank you for your e-mail of 18 December 2025, in which you requested information regarding the Church of Scientology. Your request is being handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Information Requested

Since 2023, the Church of Scientology have been able to sponsor Tier 2 Ministers of Religion and Temporary Religious Worker visas.

According to the guidance available on the gov.uk website titled "Supporting Documents for Sponsor Licence Application" (URL: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-documents-for-sponsor-applications-appendix-a/appendix-a-supporting-documents-for-sponsor-licence-application-accessible-version#about-this-guidance>) organisations must supply information relating to the reason they are applying for a sponsor licence, and information relating to vacancies such as job title, main duties, normal weekly hours, how much the worker will be paid and the skills, experience and qualifications required for the job.

There is also a minimum of 4 supporting documents required relating to the organisation and the visa routes they are applying to be licensed on.

Please could you supply any and all such documentation provided by the Church of Scientology related to their sponsor status, and any information held relating to the

job titles, duties, normal weekly hours, pay and experience/skills/qualifications required for the jobs they intend to and/or have sponsored visas for.

I understand personal identifiable information may not be disclosed due to GDPR, and the documents therefore may need to be redacted. I am not seeking any information relating to individuals, but rather the types and nature of roles, jobs and the circumstances in which Scientology have sponsored visas; as well as the information supplied so as to obtain sponsor status as an organisation.

In addition, please supply the number of certificates of sponsorship linked to the Church of Scientology that have been issued since 2023, broken down by year (and if possible, month).

Response

We are unable to provide you with the information that you have requested as this information is exempt from disclosure under Section 41 of the Freedom of Information Act. Section 41 exempts information that was provided in confidence.

Section 41(1) provides that information is exempt if disclosure to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.

This is an absolute exemption which does not require us to consider the public interest balance in disclosure.

The sponsor is set up for Minister of Religion and Religious worker tiers and any roles that they wish to recruit under them must comply with our guidance which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/search/all?keywords=minister+of+religion+guidance>.

They have assigned 53 Minister of Religion certificates of sponsorship (CoS) and 30 Religions Worker CoS.

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 **foirequests@homeoffice.gov.uk**, quoting reference **2025 17786**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

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 have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

A link to the Home Office Information Rights Privacy Notice can be found in the following link. This explains how we process your personal information: - **<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-rights-privacy-notice>**

Yours sincerely

L Nicholson
Central Operations

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>