

Freedom of Information Statistics: Implementation in Central Government

**2012 Annual
and
October - December 2012 (Q4)**

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Executive summary

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows individuals to request information from public bodies. This bulletin presents statistics for its use in 41 central government bodies, 21 Departments of State and 20 'other monitored bodies', in the annual period and fourth quarter of 2012

Number of FOI and EIR requests [see Tables 1 - 3]

The number of FOI (Freedom of Information Act) and EIR (Environmental Information Regulations) requests recorded by monitored bodies has shown an increasing trend from 2006 to 2012 – an average increase of 7% per year.

In 2012 monitored central government bodies received a total of 49,464 requests. This is a 5 per cent increase on the number received in 2011. 12,159 requests were received in October-December (Q4), 0.5 per cent less than Q4 in 2011

Timeliness of response to requests [see Tables 4, 5]

As in 2011, during 2012, a total of 92 per cent of the requests received a response within the statutory deadline of 20 days or were subject to a permitted deadline extension. The range for all monitored bodies was between 79 and 100 per cent timeliness. In Q4, 90 per cent of requests received a response in time.

Initial outcomes of requests [see Tables 6 - 9]

Of all requests received during 2012 where it was possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the information being sought, 54 per cent were granted in full. In Q4, 55 per cent were granted in full. The proportion of requests granted in full has continued its downward trend since 2005.

Exemptions and exceptions [see Table 10]

In 2012, one or more exemption or exception was applied to 11,774 requests. The most common exemption, as in previous years, was section 40 (personal data). There has been an increase in the use of section 35 (formulation of government policy) from 8 per cent of exempt requests in 2011 to 13 per cent in 2012.

Public Interest Tests, Internal Reviews and appeals [see Tables 11 - 16]

A total of 2,724 Internal Reviews were requested in 2012, on the grounds that some or all of the information originally requested was withheld. This represented 5.5 per cent of total requests and continued an emerging trend of a rise in the proportion of requests reviewed, which stood at 2.6 percent in 2007.

Of the 2,558 Internal Reviews that had been completed in 2012 by the time the statistics were collected, 75 per cent upheld the initial handling in full, consistent with previous years. 63 per cent took 20 working days or fewer to complete.

There were 351 appeals made to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) relating to the refusal of information requests by monitored bodies in 2012. This represents around 13 per cent of the number of Internal Reviews received by all monitored bodies, and approximately 0.7 per cent of all requests over this period.

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Introduction

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and the associated Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) came fully into force on 1 January 2005. This bulletin presents statistics on their implementation within central government for the quarterly period October to December 2012 and the 2012 calendar year

The previous quarterly and annual bulletins, together covering the period from January 2005 to September 2012, are available via the links on the following pages of the Ministry of Justice and National Archives websites:

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/foi/implementation

www.webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly-archive.htm

The statistics in this bulletin relate to the handling of written requests for information received by monitored bodies during the relevant time period. **They cover only non-routine – i.e. FOI or EIR - information requests.** In general, information requests treated under FOIA are included in this publication, but information given out on request as a part of routine business should not be counted unless it is a request for information that is not already reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Annex B gives a complete definition of a non-routine request, and other information on the scope of these statistics. The number of ‘routine’ information requests is not known. Figures in this publication should be considered a lower bound for all information requests received by the monitored bodies.

This bulletin presents monitoring statistics for a total of 41 central government bodies, including all major departments of state. Annex C gives a full list of monitored bodies¹. Over 100,000 bodies are subject to the FOI Act² and a substantial number of FOI requests are sent to those which are non-monitored. The trends which apply to monitored central government bodies cannot be assumed to apply universally.

More information regarding EIRs is available via the link below.

www.archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/policy/opengov/eir/

Departmental name changes

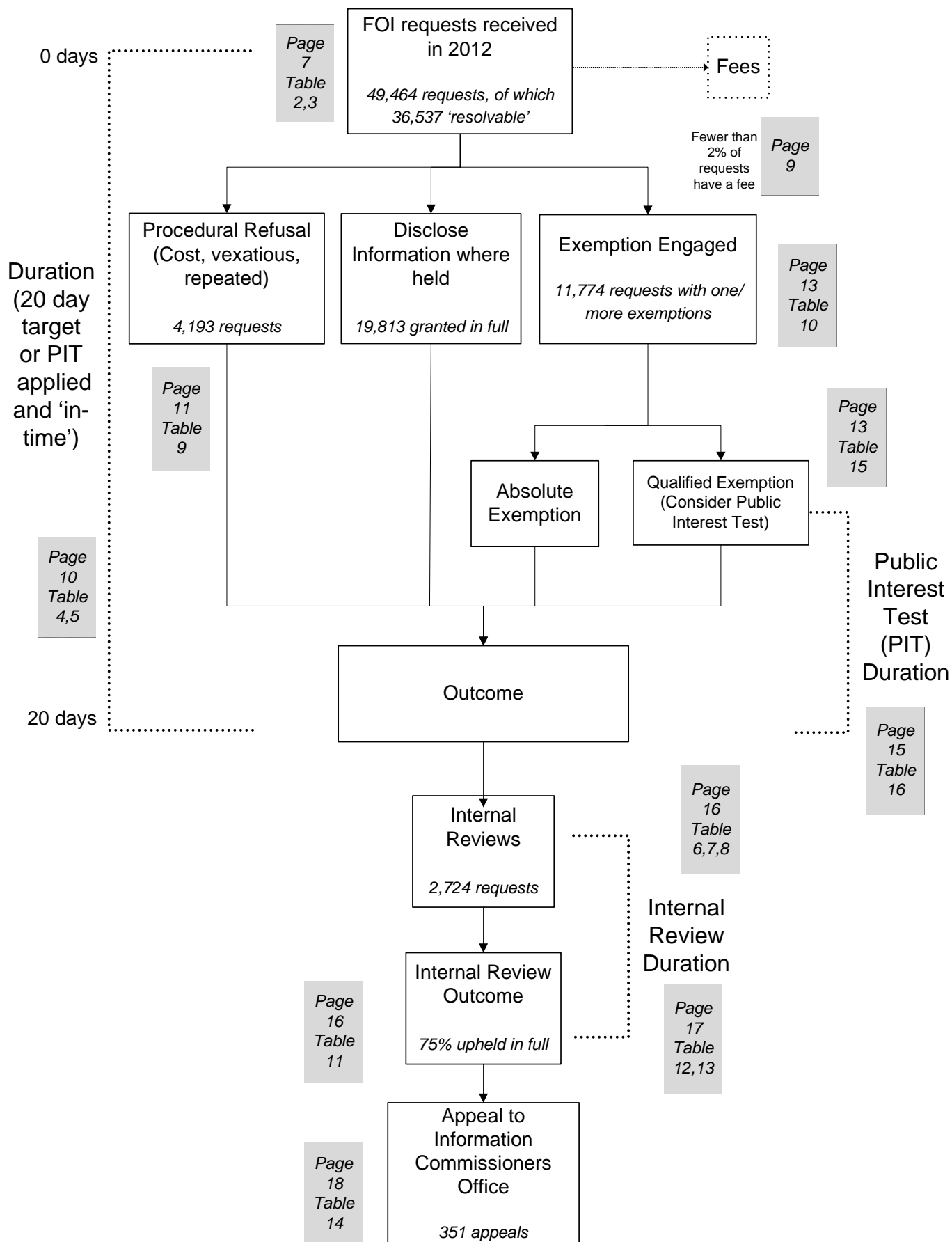
Please refer to note 1 in Annex C for full details of departmental name changes that have occurred since Q1 2012, the period covered by the tables in this bulletin.

The process map shown in Chart 1 provides information on the set of data collected from monitored bodies and where they are placed in this publication.

¹ The statistics reflect the management and implementation of the FOI Act by each monitored body and comparisons between departments can be made on this basis. There could be a degree of inconsistency in the way in which bodies have interpreted and applied the definition of an “information request” for monitoring purposes – please see Annex B for further information.

² www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/vo060725/text/60725w0081.htm#06072811011026

Chart 1: Freedom of Information Process Map



Analysis and Commentary

Number of requests [see Tables 1, 2, 3]

In 2012, monitored central government bodies received a total of 49,464 “non-routine” information requests under the Freedom of Information Act and the associated Environmental Information Regulations. This was 5 per cent more than the 47,141 requests received in 2011. The rise has almost entirely been driven by increase in volumes of requests to Departments of State.

- Departments of State received 32,828 of these requests, an increase of 8 per cent compared to 2011. The annual increase was largely driven by a surge in requests in Q1, driven by requests to the Department of Health and the Department of Work and Pensions regarding controversial policies being introduced.
- Other monitored bodies received the remaining 16,636 requests, which was 26 requests more than they received in 2011.

During the fourth quarter (October to December) of 2012 (“Q4”), the monitored central government bodies received 12,159 requests, with Departments of State receiving 8,251 requests and other monitored bodies receiving 3,908 requests.

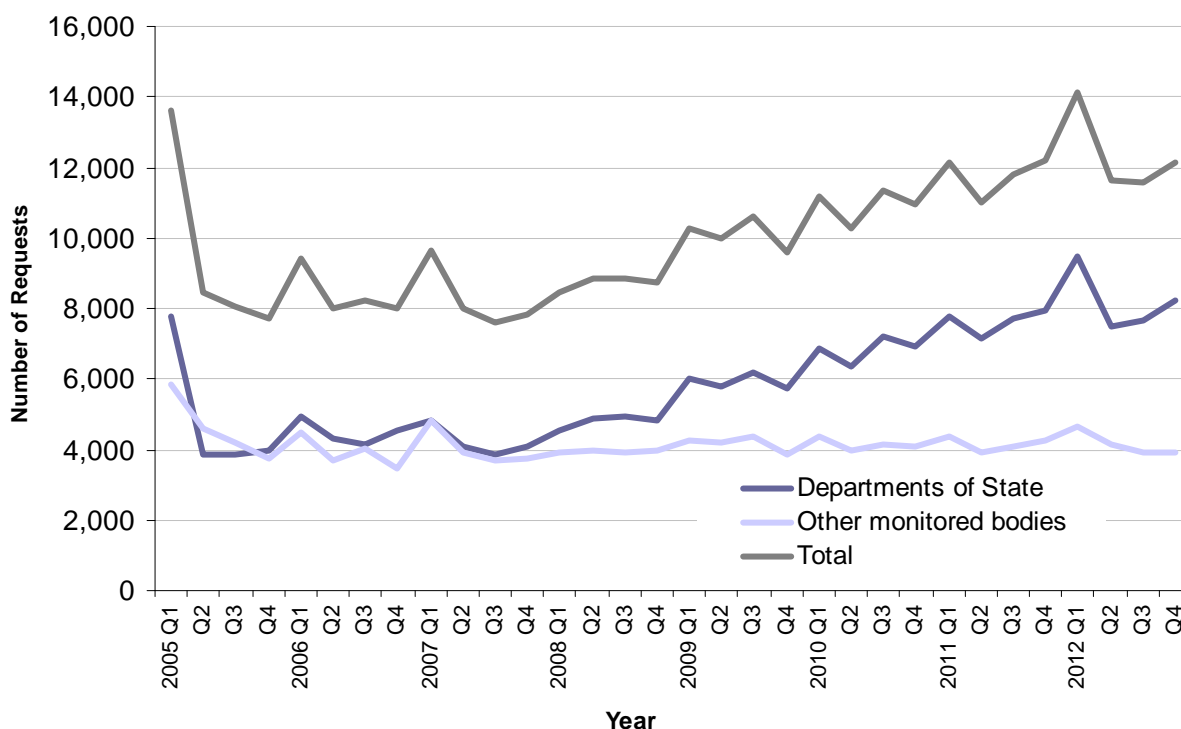
This overall total for Q4 of 2012 is 0.5 per cent less than in the corresponding quarter last year but represents an increase of 5 per cent in comparison to the preceding quarter.

There is a wider trend of rising numbers of FOI requests, driven in part by:

- a greater public perception over time of the FOIA and its uses; and
- the increased ease with which members of the public can make requests, for example the creation of websites allowing questions to be submitted to monitored bodies³.

³ See pages 109-110, Memorandum to the Justice Select Committee, Post-Legislative Assessment of the FOI Act 2000, www.justice.gov.uk/downloads/publications/policy/moi/post-legislative-assessment-of-the-foi-act.pdf

Figure 1: Number of FOI/EIR requests received since the Act's introduction in January 2005



The initial surge in requests when the Act in 2005 was introduced in 2005 was driven partly by the inclusion of routine requests. For example, some bodies included in their statistics simple phone call requests for pre-existing information.

By Monitored Body

The four monitored bodies whose volume of FOI requests grew the most between 2011 and 2012 are:

- Department for Work and Pensions, by 1,268 requests (a 36 per cent increase)
- HM Treasury, by 632 (a 29 per cent increase)
- Home Office, by 568 (a 17 per cent increase)
- Department for Health, by 460 (a 24 per cent increase).

This is primarily due to topical issues. Policies flagged by the departments concerned include requests concerning universal credit; questions regarding the state of the economy; campaigns involving UK Borders Agency, animal testing, the Communications Bill and provoked by the Police Commissioner elections; and concerning NHS risk registers respectively.

The Charity Commission reported the largest drop in requests (by 329, a 29 per cent decrease) and attributed this to a change in their monitoring practices between routine and non-routine information requests.

Of the Departments of State, the Department for Work and Pensions reported having received the highest number of requests during 2012 – a total of 4,778. The following departments received more than 3,000 requests during the year:

- Home Office – 3,903
- Ministry of Defence – 3,433
- Ministry of Justice – 3,182
- Department for Transport – 3,170

Among other monitored bodies, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reported having received 6,631 requests during 2012, while the National Archives received 2,856 and HM Revenue and Customs received 2,084. The HSE is the only monitored body to have received more than 1,000 requests during each quarter since the Act was implemented. This is partly due to the nature of requests it receives: a large percentage are from solicitors representing an injured party, seeking disclosure of information collected during an investigation of a workplace incident. These three bodies accounted for around 70 per cent of all requests received by all the other monitoring bodies. Therefore the trends for the other monitored bodies group as a whole are heavily dependant on the trends for these three particular bodies.

FOIA applies to over 100,000 public bodies⁴, including all local authorities and schools. The 41 monitored bodies covered in this bulletin represent an unknown fraction of the volume of FOI requests made.

Environmental Information Regulations

Monitoring statistics also show the number of requests that fell fully or mostly under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs). There were 1,756 such requests during 2012 (an increase from the 1502 received in 2011), and 468 during the fourth quarter. In both periods, these totals accounted for 4 per cent of all requests received by monitored bodies. This is due partly to reclassification of a number of FOI requests as falling under the EIRs and partly to the profile of some environmental polices prompting questions in particular areas, for example questions to HM Treasury concerning shale gas.

Of monitored bodies receiving requests falling under the EIRs, the HSE; the Rural Payments Agency, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Energy and Climate Change received the most (over 250 requests each). Between them they receive 72 per cent of requests which fall under the EIRs.

Use of fees

Section 9 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to charge a fee for providing information requested under the Act. Authorities can charge a fee both for those requests that fall outside the 'appropriate limit' and for certain disbursements that are incurred when handling a request.

Of the 49,464 requests received by monitored bodies during the year, 725 (1 per cent) were subject to a fee being levied by the authority involved. The only monitored body to routinely

⁴www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/vo060725/text/60725w0081.htm#06072811011026

charge fees for FOI / EIR work was the National Archives (TNA), which operates a separate fees regime under section 19 of the FOI Act. TNA did so in 25 per cent of cases in 2012, accounting for over 99 per cent of all fee charged requests in 2012, and 98 per cent of all the fee monies received. A principal function of TNA is to provide information to the public. Without a separate fees regime there would be a danger that users of TNA would exploit the FOI Act to require TNA to undertake extensive research in a manner that would impede its ability to function.

The total amount of fees received by monitored bodies for answering FOI / EIR requests during 2012 was £30,971 and the average value of paid fees was £61. This compares to the last three years average fee paid of £54 (2009), £56 (2010) and £61 (2011) respectively.

Apart from TNA, it was extremely rare for monitored bodies to charge fees for responding to FOI requests. A fee was levied against only 6 non-TNA requests during 2012.

Timeliness of response to requests [see Tables 4, 5]

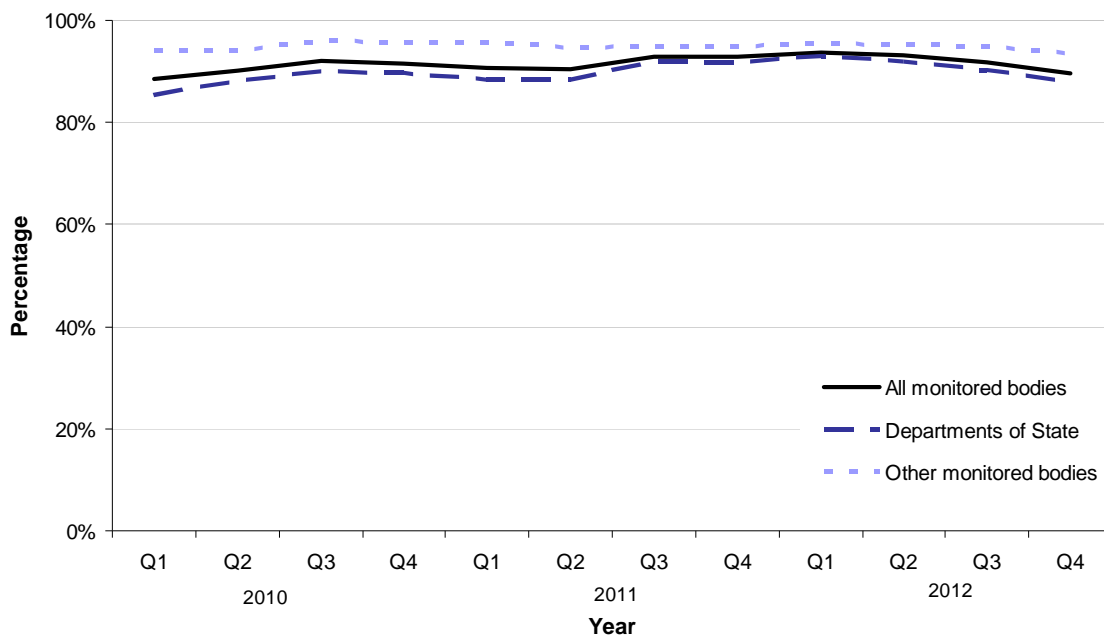
The FOI Act requires public bodies to respond to written requests for information within 20 working days of receipt (with limited exceptions, for example to allow additional time for the consideration of public interest).

The calendar year figures for 2012 as a whole are based on the aggregated four quarterly monitoring returns completed for 2012. Due to monitoring procedures, these may differ from the annual return. For more information see the notes on the tables in Annex A.

During 2012, over four-fifths (88 per cent) of requests received were sent a substantive response within this standard deadline - up from 87 per cent in 2011. Overall, as in 2011, 92 per cent of the requests received during 2012 were responded to "in time", in that they either received a response within the standard deadline or were subject to a permitted deadline extension. The range of timeliness for monitored bodies within the standard deadline was 75 per cent to 100 per cent. Between 79 per cent and 100 per cent of requests were "in time".

Departments of State answered 86 per cent of requests within the 20 day limit in 2012, compared with 92 per cent for the other monitored bodies. However, Departments of State were more likely to use the permitted extension of the 20-day deadline to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest. As a result, the proportion of requests answered "in time" in 2012 was marginally more closely matched, at 91 per cent for Departments of State and 95 per cent for other monitored bodies. Figure 2 shows that the trend of other monitored bodies being more timely than Departments of State has held over the last three years.

Figure 2: Percentage of FOI requests processed in time by Departments of State and other monitored bodies, quarterly from Q1 2010



In the fourth quarter of 2012, 90 per cent of request were answered “in time” (two percentage points fewer than the third quarter of 2012) and 86 per cent were sent a response within the standard deadline (down from 87 per cent in Q3 2012).

Initial outcomes of requests [see Tables 6, 7, 8, 9]

In 2012, of the 49,464 requests received by all monitored bodies,

- 7 requests were “on hold” awaiting a fee payment or had “lapsed” because a fee had been charged but not paid;
- 9,611 requests sought information that was not held by the monitored body in question;
- 3,309 requests were responded to with requests for clarification (‘advice and assistance’) because the body handling the request needed further details in order to identify the information sought.

The remaining 36,537 requests were assumed to be “resolvable”, in that it was possible to give a substantive decision on whether to release the information being sought.

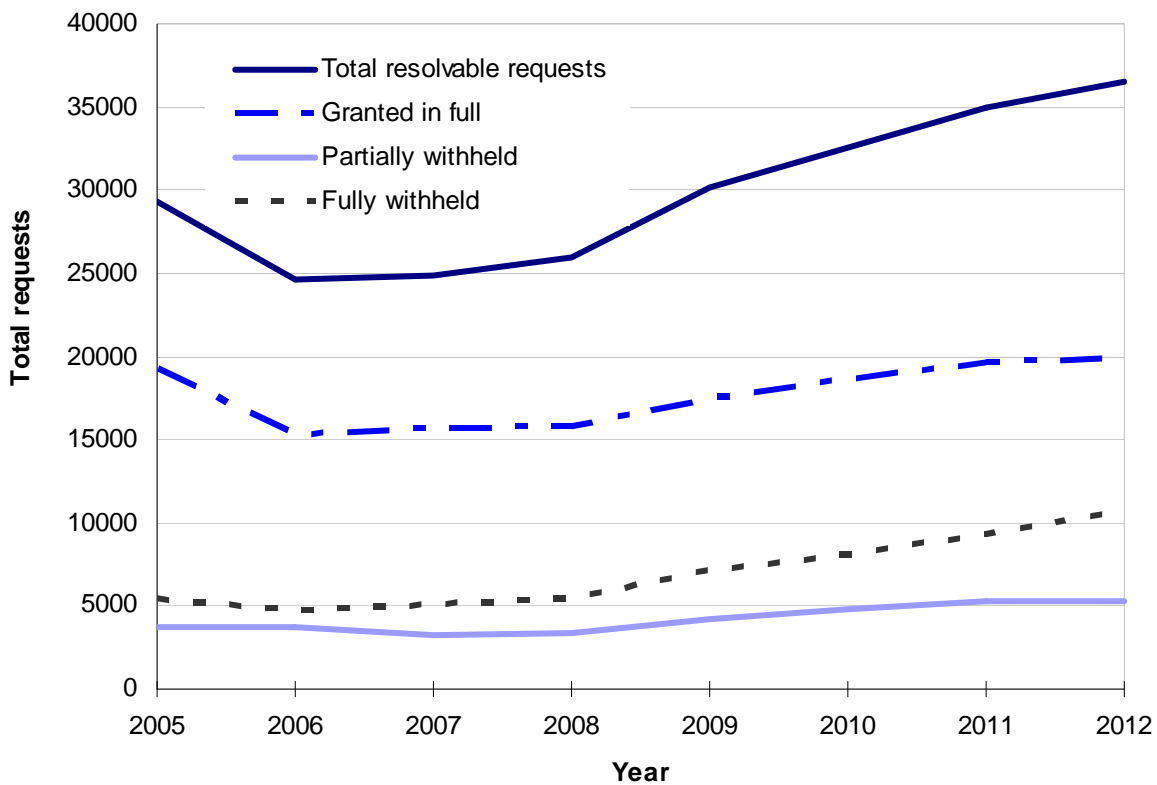
Of the 36,537 “resolvable” requests:

- 54 per cent were granted in full, down from 56 per cent in 2011; the proportion of requests granted in full has generally followed a downward trend since 2005
- 14 per cent were withheld in part, this proportion has been generally stable since 2008
- 29 per cent were withheld in full; this proportion has been slowly increasing since 2005

- 2 per cent had not yet received a substantive response at the time of monitoring.

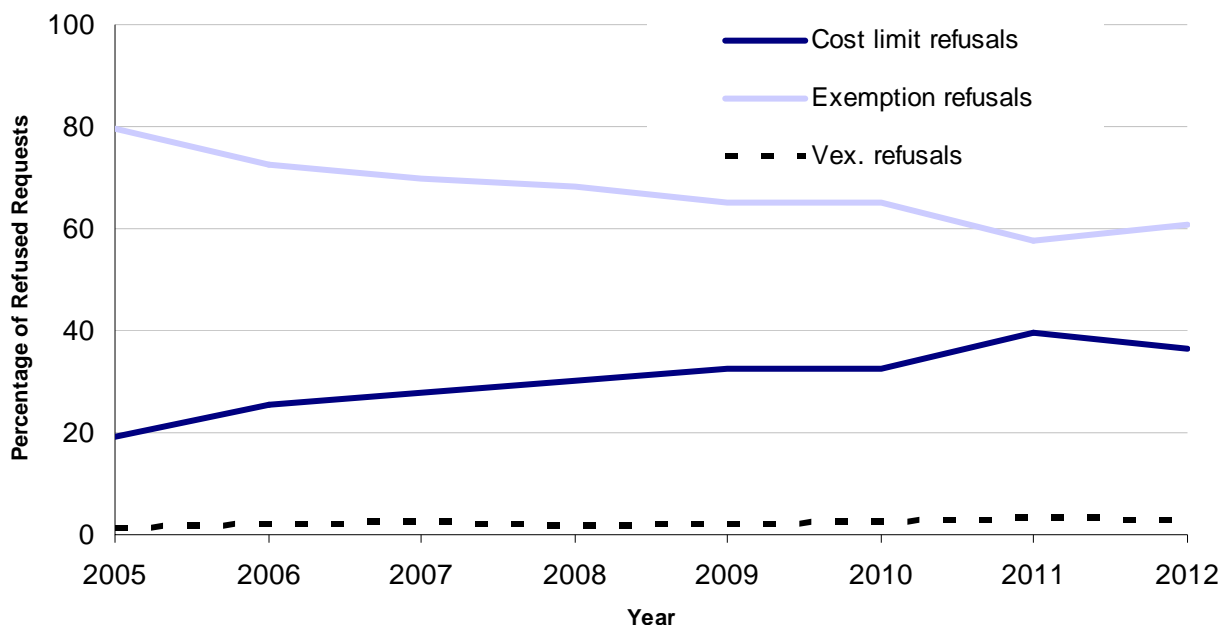
Figure 3 illustrates the outcome of resolvable requests since 2005. It shows that the proportion of requests granted in full has slowly reduced since the act was introduced, while the proportion of those refused in full has increased. This may reflect a changing nature of requests as the monitored bodies have made more routine information available to the public.

Figure 3: Initial outcomes of resolvable requests, 2005 - 2012



Of the 10,679 requests rejected in full in 2012: 161 were considered vexatious, 140 were repeated FOI requests, 3,892 were over the cost limit as defined in section 12 of the act, and 6,486 were due to an exemption or exception. The long term trend has been an increasing percentage of cost limit refusals and a decreasing percentage of exemption refusals, as seen in figure 4. However, in 2012 there was an increase in the percentage of exemption refusals and decrease in cost refusals as a proportion of all refused requests. The percentage of vexatious requests has remained constant since 2005.

Figure 4: Breakdown of refused resolvable FOI requests over time



In the fourth quarter of 2012:

Of the 12,159 requests received by the monitored bodies: 47 were on hold or had lapsed; 2,411 sought information not held; and 810 needed further clarification.

Of the remaining 8,891 “resolvable” requests,

- 55 per cent were granted in full, up from 53 per cent in Q3 2012;
- 13 per cent were withheld in part, down from 15 per cent in Q3 2012;
- 27 per cent were withheld in full, down from 28 per cent in Q3 2012;
- 5 per cent had not yet received a substantive response at the time of monitoring, the same as Q3 2012.

Use of exemptions and exceptions [see Tables 9 and 10]

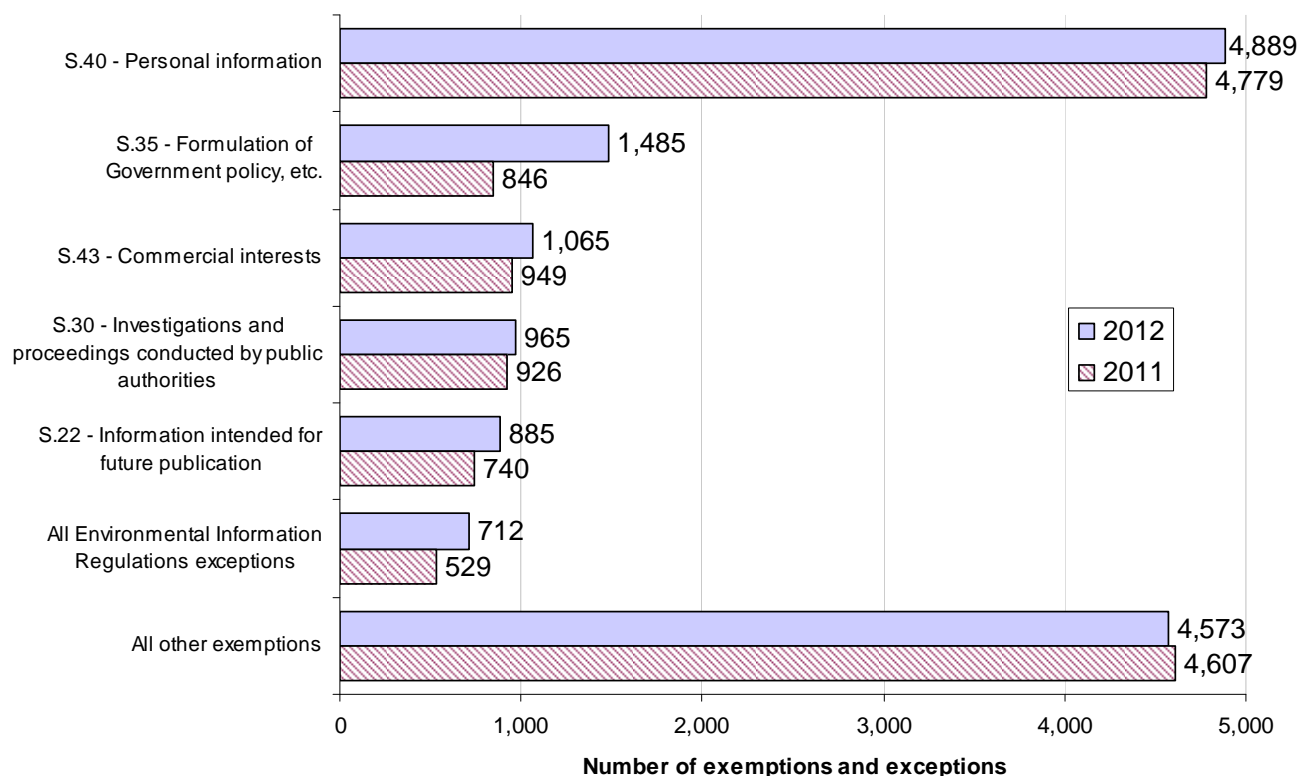
Under the FOI Act, a public authority can only refuse to provide requested information that it holds if:

- The request is considered vexatious or repeated;
- The cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit;
- The information falls in one or more of the categories of exempt information (“exemptions”) listed in Part II of the Act.

There are similar arrangements that apply to certain types of information under the EIRs. These list a number of “exceptions to the duty to disclose environmental information” in Part 3 of the Regulations.

In 2012, one or more of these exemptions or exceptions was applied to a total of 11,774 requests across all monitored bodies. The five most commonly applied exemptions or exceptions in 2012 and the change in their use from 2011 is illustrated in figure 5:

Figure 5: Requests where FOI exemptions and EIR exceptions were applied by monitored bodies during 2012



One notable trend is the increase in the number of exemptions under section 35 (formulation of government policy). In 2012 there were 1,485 uses of the section 35 exemption, which is a 76 percent increase from 2011 when it was applied to 846 requests. Consistent with the rise in the number of EIRs, there has been an increase in the use of EIR exceptions from 529 exceptions to 712, an increase of 35 per cent.

Section 40 (personal information) was the most widely used exception. For other exemptions, the profile of exemption usage differed between Departments of State and other monitored bodies, and reflects the different functions that these bodies perform.

Departments of State were more likely than other monitored bodies to have applied exemptions under Section 35 (formulation of government policy, etc.), Section 43 (commercial interests), Section 36 (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs) and Section 22 (information intended for future publication) when withholding requested information. Similar trends have been seen in previous years, and reflect the role of Departments of State at the centre of government policy-making.

By contrast, other monitored bodies were more likely than Departments of State to use the following exemptions to the requirement to release information: Section 30 (investigations and

proceedings conducted by public authorities) and Section 44 (prohibitions on disclosure). This similarly reflects the roles of the other monitored bodies, either as regulators or as administrative bodies whose roles and functions are prescribed in legislation.

Duration of public interest test extensions [see Tables 15, 16]

Under some exemptions of the FOI Act, defined as qualified exemptions, a public authority receiving an information request is required to consider whether or not the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding it. Under the Act, a public authority is permitted to extend the 20-day time limit for responding to requests, in order to make this public interest test consideration.

Figures relating to the duration of public interest test extensions are collected annually only.

Durations of PITs received in 2012

There were 1,992 requests received by monitored bodies in 2012 where a statutory extension was applied to the response deadline and for which extension duration data are available. 1,746 requests had been processed in full by the time of monitoring. Of these,

- 53 per cent completed the public interest test consideration in 20 working days or fewer;
- 35 per cent took between 20 and 60 working days;
- 9 per cent took between 60 and 100 days;
- 4 per cent took more than 100 days.

ICO Good Practice Guidance states that best practice is an extension of 20 days or fewer⁵. In total, of all requests resolved in 2012 90% of FOI requests were answered within the original 20 days or within a 20 day PIT extension.

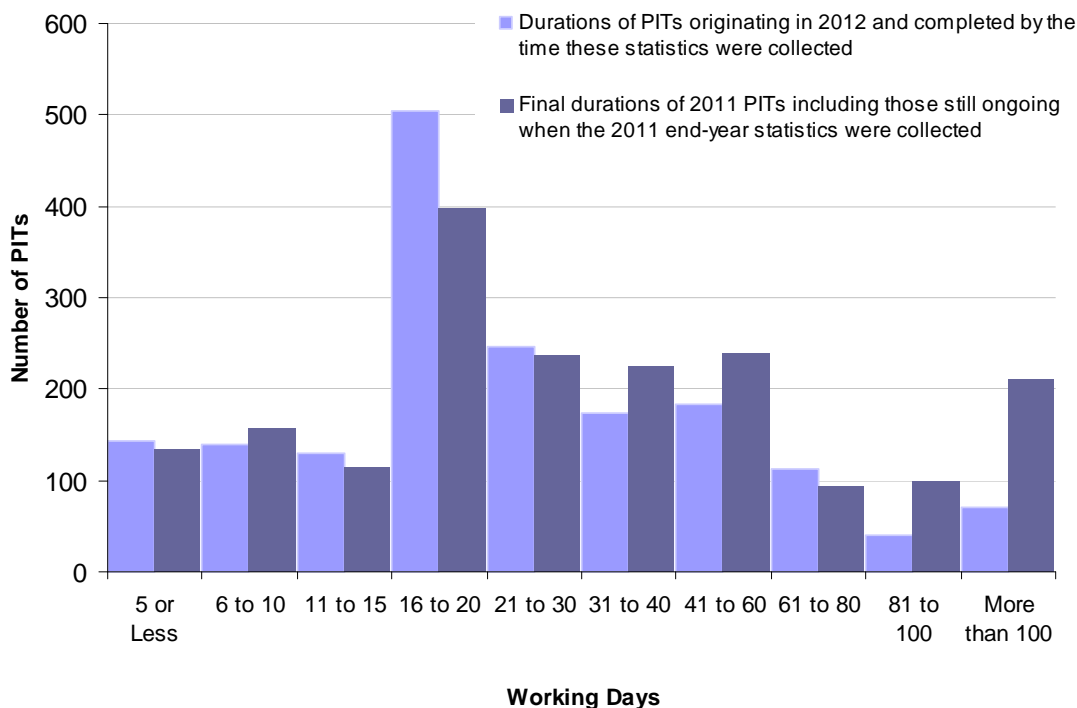
Duration of PITs originating in 2011

Figures giving the eventual duration for those public interest test extensions originating in the previous year, which were still ongoing when the previous end-year statistics were collected, but which have subsequently been resolved are shown below.

Some monitored bodies were not able to provide data on the duration of deadline extensions. These figures may, therefore, not reflect the complete picture across all monitored bodies. For those monitored bodies which were able to provide data, there were 235 requests that had a statutory extension applied in the previous period (2011) but had not been finalised by the time the annual statistics were collected. Of these, 7 per cent took less than 20 working days to complete, 74 per cent eventually took longer than 60 working days and 60 per cent took more than 100 days). PIT timeliness of requests originating in 2011 and 2012 is given in figure 6.

⁵www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/freedom_of_information/detailed_specialist_guides/foi_good_practice_guidance_4.pdf

Figure 6: Public Interest Test Timeliness originating in 2012 and eventual timeliness of those originating in 2011



Internal Reviews in 2011 and 2012 [see Tables 11, 12, 13]

Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an Internal Review if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether or not to release requested information, if their request was not dealt with within 20 working days or if they felt a fee was wrongly charged. This process should be a fair and thorough review of the initial decision.

Figures relating to Internal Reviews are collected annually only.

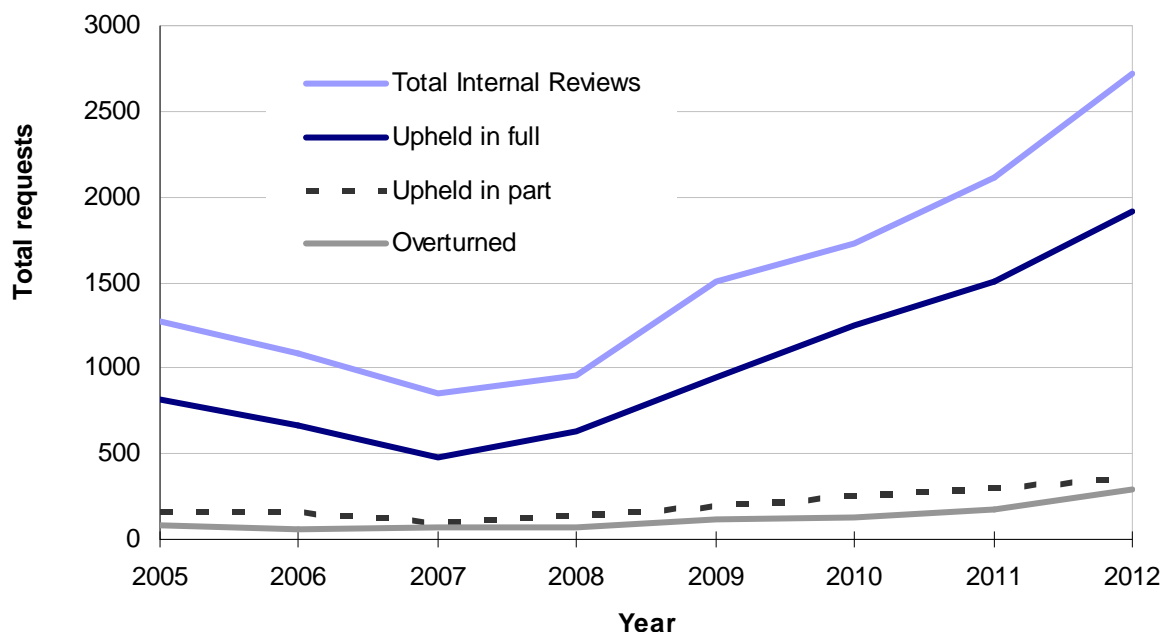
Across all monitored bodies, a total of 2,724 Internal Reviews were reported as having been initiated on information requests initially received during 2012 on the grounds that some or all of the requested information was originally withheld. This is 29 per cent higher than the number in the previous year (2,114). The percentage of internal reviews as a proportion of total requests has also increased, from 4.5 per cent in 2011 to 5.5 in 2012.

The outcome of 2,558 of these Internal Reviews was known at the time of monitoring, of these:

- The initial handling of the request under review was upheld fully in 75 per cent of these cases;
- The initial handling was upheld partially in a further 14 per cent of cases;
- In the remaining 11 per cent of cases, the requester's complaint was upheld and the initial handling of the request was overturned.

The number of Internal Reviews has been increasing since 2007, as illustrated by figure 7

Figure 7: Number of Internal Reviews and breakdown of their outcomes



Departments of State were more likely to receive Internal Reviews than other monitored bodies. Departments of State received almost 70 Internal Reviews per 1,000 information requests received during 2012, compared to 27 among other monitored bodies. Other monitored bodies were more likely to uphold the original handling in full than Departments of State (84 per cent against 73 per cent respectively).

The number of Internal Reviews as a percentage of refused requests has also been increasing. By the end of the monitoring period in 2007, 10 per cent of refused requests had an internal review, but by 2012 this had increased to 17 per cent.

Durations of Internal Reviews received in 2012

The Code of Practice issued under Section 45 of the FOI Act states that Internal Review procedures should “encourage a prompt determination of the complaint”. Most monitored bodies were able to provide this information, but the Health and Safety Executive was only able to provide information on the number of Internal Reviews and not their duration. Monitored bodies able to provide data had 2,724 Internal Reviews on requests initially received in 2012, and 2,558 (94 per cent) of these had been completed by the time the statistics were collected.

- 63 per cent of these Internal Reviews took 20 working days or fewer;
- 32 per cent took between 21 and 60 working days;
- 4 per cent took between 60 and 100 days;
- 1 per cent took more than 100 days.

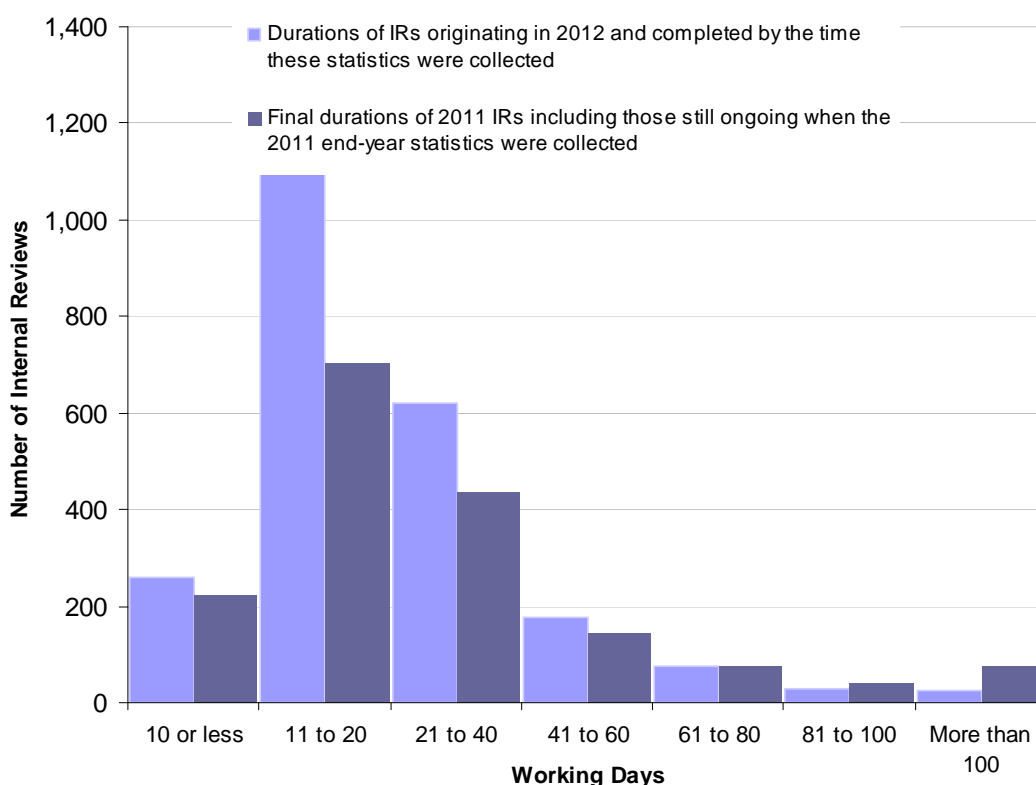
Duration of Internal Reviews originating in previous year, 2011

Some Internal Reviews begun in 2011 but were ongoing when the previous end-year statistics were collected. These have subsequently been resolved and their timeliness is illustrated in Figure 8. As a group these are not representative of the duration of all Internal

Reviews, but these unresolved Internal Reviews were previously excluded from the duration statistics in these reports.

For those monitored bodies which were able to provide these figures, there were 144 requests that were subject to an Internal Review which had not reached a conclusion by the time the annual statistics were collected. Of these, 49 per cent eventually took longer than 60 working days to complete (and 33 per cent took more than 100 days). Figure 8 shows the timeliness of Internal Reviews originating in 2011 and 2012.

Figure 8: Internal Review Timeliness originating in 2012 and eventual timeliness of those originating in 2011



Post Legislative Scrutiny of the Freedom of Information Act suggested introducing a statutory time limit of 20 days for an internal review, unless a third party is required for consultation with a permitted extension of an addition 20 days for exceptionally complex or voluminous requests⁶. The government responded by saying they are minded to amend the Code of Practice to suggest a 20 day limit but that such a change should not be statutory⁷. Of the internal reviews already answered from 2012, 63 per cent of requests would have met this 20 day deadline and 86 per cent if the extension were applied.

Appeals to the Information Commissioner in 2012 [see Table 14]

If a requester has obtained an Internal Review of a public authority’s response to a FOI request, but remains dissatisfied with the outcome, he or she is able make a free formal appeal to the

⁶ See page 14 in Justice Select Committee, Post-Legislative Assessment of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, July 2011

⁷ See page 14 in the Government’s Response to the Justice Committee’s Report, December 2011

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO is the independent regulator of public authorities in their handling of information requests. Full details of the role of the ICO and how to make an appeal can be found on its website at: www.ico.gov.uk.

Formal complaints to the ICO often relate to complex and difficult issues and the ICO's response is not subject to any statutory time limit. Data has been collected on appeals where some or all of the information requested has been withheld from the applicant, but not for those relating to purely procedural matters, and where the body receiving the original request has been notified of the appeal by the ICO. They will therefore be different to the ICO's own figures on FOI appeals case work.

Figures relating to appeals to the ICO are collected annually only.

During 2012, there were 351 appeals to the ICO relating to the refusal of information requests by monitored bodies, compared to the 350 in the previous year. This represents 0.7 per cent of all requests received. A total of 186 of these appeals had been completed at the time of monitoring. Of these,

- the public authority's initial handling of the request was fully upheld in 126 cases (68 per cent);
- the initial handling was partially upheld in a further 29 (16 per cent);
- in the remaining 31 (17 per cent) of cases, the applicant's complaint was upheld.

Of the 351 appeals to the ICO, 285 were in relation to requests originally received by Departments of State, suggesting that they are more likely than other monitored bodies to have their response to an FOI request appealed.

If the requester or government body is not satisfied with the ICO's decision, the case can be taken to the First Tier Tribunal (Information Rights). For more information, see the Annual Tribunal statistics published on www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/tribunals/annual-stats

Annex A: Statistical Tables

- Table 1 Summary statistics, 2009 to 2012
- Table 2 Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012 and the quarter October – December 2012, and their status at the time of end-of-year monitoring
- Table 3 Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 January 2010
- Table 4 Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012 and the quarter October – December 2012
- Table 5 Proportion of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies that were answered “in time”, by quarter, since 1 January 2010
- Table 6 Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012
- Table 7 Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 October – 31 December 2012
- Table 8 Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 January 2010
- Table 9 Statutory reasons given by monitored bodies for fully withholding non-routine information requested during 2012
- Table 10 Exemptions (FOI) and exceptions (EIRs) applied by monitored bodies when withholding non-routine information requested during 2012
- Table 11 Outcomes of Internal Reviews of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012, where the requested information was initially withheld
- Table 12 Duration of completed Internal Reviews of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012, where the requested information was initially withheld

Table 13 Duration of Internal Reviews of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies in 2011, where the requested information was initially withheld, and which were reported as not completed in the 2011 end-year monitoring statistics

Table 14 Outcomes of appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) about the handling of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012

Table 15 Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012

Table 16 Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2011, and which were reported as not completed in the 2011 end-year monitoring statistics

Previous annual publications included a table listing monthly referrals to the Ministry of Justice Central Clearing House. This closed in February 2012 and has not been included in this year's report.

Symbols and conventions

- Not applicable
- 0 Nil
- * Percentage not supplied because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer
- # Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details
- † Government body changed during monitoring period. See Annex C

Complete sets of figures showing the summary figures from the start of the Act, the latest period October-December 2012 and the 2012 calendar year can be found in accompanying files on the Ministry of Justice website at

www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/foi/implementation

TABLE 1
Summary statistics, 2009 to 2012

	Departments of State	Other monitored bodies	TOTAL
<u>Initial handling of requests</u>			
Total number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies			
2009	23,721	16,827	40,548
2010	27,410	16,511	43,921
2011	30,531	16,610	47,141
2012	32,828	16,636	49,464
% change, 2011 to 2012	8%	0%	5%
Proportion of requests received (excluding on-hold or lapsed¹) where response was provided within 20-day deadline²			
2009	75%	91%	82%
2010	83%	91%	86%
2011	85%	93%	87%
2012	86%	92%	88%
Proportion of requests received (excluding on-hold or lapsed¹) where response was provided "in time"³			
2009	81%	94%	86%
2010	88%	95%	91%
2011	90%	95%	92%
2012	91%	95%	92%
Proportion of "resolvable"⁴ requests granted in full			
2009	59%	57%	58%
2010	59%	55%	57%
2011	56%	55%	56%
2012	55%	53%	54%
Proportion of "resolvable"⁴ requests withheld in full⁵			
2009	23%	24%	23%
2010	24%	27%	25%
2011	27%	26%	27%
2012	30%	28%	29%
<u>Internal Reviews</u>			
Total number of Internal Reviews⁶ on non-routine information requests, where requested information was initially withheld			
2009	1,204	298	1,502
2010	1,349	380	1,729
2011	1,709	405	2,114
2012	2,274	450	2,724
Proportion of Internal Reviews⁶ with a known outcome where initial handling was upheld in full			
2009	76%	75%	75%
2010	77%	79%	77%
2011	76%	79%	77%
2012	73%	84%	75%
<u>Appeals to the Information Commissioner</u>			
Total number of appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office⁷ on non-routine information requests received			
2009	160	46	206
2010	176	52	228
2011	286	64	350
2012	285	66	351

Notes

1 - Requests "on hold" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received at the time of monitoring. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. Where a fee is charged and the deadline for payment expires, the request is deemed to have "lapsed" as no further action is required from the public authority.

2 - Although the standard statutory deadline for responding to an information request is 20 working days, a 30-day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to archived information. The National Archives' timeliness figures are therefore reported on this basis.

3 - Requests answered within the 20-day limit (30 days for the National Archives) or using a permitted extension. "Permitted extensions" include: requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Freedom of Information Act is extended to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest; requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Environmental Information Regulations is extended because of the complexity or volume of the request.

4 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it is possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the requested information. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

5 - "Fully withheld" requests include those which were refused because it was estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

6 - Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an "Internal Review" if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether to release requested information. This process should be a fair and impartial review of the initial decision. Requesters who are still not content with the outcome of the Internal Review can make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner if they wish (see Section 50 of the FOI Act)

7 - If an applicant is not satisfied with the outcome of a public authority's "Internal Review" of the handling of their information request, they may make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner. If the Commissioner decides that the public authority has not complied with the FOI Act, he may issue a "decision notice" setting out the steps to be taken in order to achieve compliance.

TABLE 2

Number of non-routine information requests received in 2012 and 1 October - 31 December 2012 with their status at time of monitoring¹

Government body	2012 total requests received	Request status at time of				Q4 2012 requests received	Request status at time of monitoring ¹			
		Processed	"On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³		Processed	"On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	49,464	48,700	7	757	1,756	12,159	11,629	47	483	468
TOTAL for Departments of State only	32,828	32,305	1	522	1,049	8,251	7,850	0	401	265
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	16,636	16,395	6	235	707	3,908	3,779	47	82	203
Departments of State										
Attorney General's Office	164	161	0	3	0	43	40	0	3	0
Cabinet Office #	1,607	1,583	0	24	0	378	361	0	17	0
Communities and Local Government	781	768	1	12	82	193	182	0	11	24
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	1,009	1,001	0	8	32	232	224	0	8	7
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	597	591	0	6	32	122	119	0	3	9
Department for Education #	1,309	1,278	0	31	0	315	290	0	25	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	699	699	0	0	309	170	170	0	0	62
Department for International Development	408	406	0	2	4	105	103	0	2	3
Department for Transport #	3,170	3,152	0	18	197	836	819	0	17	50
Department for Work and Pensions #	4,778	4,716	0	62	0	1,282	1,223	0	59	0
Department of Energy and Climate Change	704	697	0	7	306	197	191	0	6	80
Department of Health	2,405	2,405	0	0	2	483	483	0	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	64	61	0	3	0	10	8	0	2	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,338	1,286	0	52	20	332	290	0	42	6
HM Treasury #	2,779	2,703	0	76	60	679	650	0	29	22
Home Office #	3,903	3,787	0	116	0	1,110	1,011	0	99	0
Ministry of Defence #	3,433	3,369	0	64	4	853	812	0	41	2
Ministry of Justice #	3,182	3,150	0	32	1	781	748	0	33	0
Northern Ireland Office	206	204	0	2	0	53	52	0	1	0
Scotland Office	138	134	0	4	0	40	37	0	3	0
Wales Office	154	154	0	0	0	37	37	0	0	0

TABLE 2 continued

Number of non-routine information requests received in 2012 and 1 October - 31 December 2012 with their status at time of monitoring¹

Government body	2012 total requests received	Request status at time of				Q4 2012 requests received	Request status at time of monitoring ¹			
		Processed	"On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³		Processed	"On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³
Other bodies included in monitoring										
Charity Commission	815	813	0	2	0	127	125	0	2	0
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	140	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	616	607	0	9	3	142	135	0	7	0
Debt Management Office	44	44	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	144	144	0	0	0	34	34	0	0	0
Health and Safety Executive	6,631	6,533	0	98	276	1,641	1,609	0	32	85
HM Land Registry	294	291	1	2	0	88	86	1	1	0
HM Revenue and Customs	2,084	2,080	0	4	2	524	520	0	4	0
National Archives	2,856	2,739	5	112	0	643	566	46	31	0
National Savings and Investments	93	92	0	1	0	21	20	0	1	0
Office for National Statistics	227	227	0	0	0	71	71	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	696	696	0	0	0	162	162	0	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	380	380	0	0	0	105	105	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	202	202	0	0	44	64	64	0	0	32
Office of Rail Regulation	153	153	0	0	1	31	31	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	91	91	0	0	0	17	17	0	0	0
Royal Mint	29	29	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	457	457	0	0	380	99	99	0	0	86
Serious Fraud Office	120	117	0	3	0	37	35	0	2	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	465	465	0	0	0	66	66	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	99	95	0	4	1	26	24	0	2	0

Notes

Please see the 'Notes on the Tables' section for important information about consistency between tables in this report.

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - Monitoring returns were submitted to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) during February 2013

2 - Requests "on hold" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received at the time of monitoring. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. Where a fee is charged and the deadline for payment expires, the request is deemed to have "lapsed" as no further action is required from the public authority.

3 - The amended Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) came into force on 1 January 2005 to coincide with the FOI Act.

TABLE 3
Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 January 2010

Government body	2010				2011				2012			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	11,022	10,244	11,291	11,177	12,447	11,290	11,655	12,221	14,116	11,634	11,563	12,159
TOTAL for Departments of State only	6,677	6,339	7,200	6,898	7,783	7,124	7,738	7,942	9,452	7,468	7,646	8,251
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	4,345	3,905	4,091	4,279	4,664	4,166	3,917	4,279	4,664	4,166	3,917	3,908
<i>Departments of State</i>												
Attorney General's Office	28	33	37	29	31	42	36	44	49	48	21	43
Cabinet Office #	236	235	307	303	395	349	426	509	492	378	357	378
Communities and Local Government	243	218	237	235	250	221	242	230	179	168	241	193
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	279	231	244	280	293	256	273	229	299	231	247	232
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	165	119	165	158	142	195	161	177	184	185	128	122
Department for Education #	-	220	263	217	328	245	289	287	349	313	332	315
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	143	127	142	139	183	150	166	164	200	179	147	170
Department for International Development	92	104	120	86	110	122	125	125	117	106	80	105
Department for Transport #	794	605	735	753	898	710	812	778	892	713	701	836
Department for Work and Pensions #	797	748	777	823	877	763	937	927	1,326	1,005	1,156	1,282
Department of Energy and Climate Change	171	138	144	123	125	115	131	159	216	144	147	197
Department of Health	510	465	522	526	617	417	478	433	1,077	417	430	483
Export Credits Guarantee Department	23	10	20	12	23	36	18	21	27	18	9	10
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	311	250	310	313	367	344	292	348	390	336	279	332
Government Equalities Office †	30	15	29	32	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HM Treasury #	438	523	666	435	356	480	654	688	759	624	713	679
Home Office #	763	699	781	826	866	786	813	867	923	900	973	1,110
Ministry of Defence #	738	693	718	767	957	830	930	877	914	844	817	853
Ministry of Justice #	808	805	854	707	847	901	835	933	910	757	757	781
Northern Ireland Office	66	42	56	50	37	61	51	60	58	46	49	53
Scotland Office	30	28	34	47	18	54	35	48	43	30	25	40
Wales Office	12	31	39	37	42	47	34	38	48	26	37	37

TABLE 3 continued

Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 January 2010

Government body	2010				2011				2012			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Central Office of Information †	13	12	16	13	12	10	7	11	-	-	-	-
Charity Commission	202	185	241	254	268	276	293	306	322	219	146	127
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	55	47	44	49	70	79	59	68	75	65	-	-
Crown Prosecution Service	135	103	124	107	104	100	132	117	162	141	171	142
Debt Management Office	10	9	15	11	18	11	11	12	17	15	9	6
Food Standards Agency	57	29	47	33	30	24	32	28	36	49	25	34
Health and Safety Executive	1,562	1,656	1,586	1,617	1,757	1,620	1,637	1,603	1,795	1,599	1,617	1,641
HM Land Registry	49	36	49	41	61	57	46	60	72	79	55	88
HM Revenue and Customs	391	369	403	459	429	461	461	443	611	501	447	524
National Archives	927	733	817	717	756	506	715	929	750	743	720	643
National Savings and Investments	23	20	27	22	26	29	24	23	30	25	17	21
Office for National Statistics	62	52	30	53	89	60	62	59	43	46	67	71
Office for Standards in Education	314	273	246	238	241	208	172	169	212	183	140	162
Office of Fair Trading	123	118	157	139	132	107	114	81	111	72	92	105
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	60	36	38	17	30	38	26	38	45	41	52	64
Office of Rail Regulation	67	43	33	52	47	42	41	95	44	39	39	31
Ordnance Survey	42	17	17	27	23	28	31	22	29	22	23	17
Royal Mint	8	5	3	5	4	4	5	4	5	16	4	4
Rural Payments Agency	91	86	83	84	105	101	118	97	118	121	117	99
Serious Fraud Office	33	20	33	25	24	26	22	15	25	36	21	37
Treasury Solicitor's Department	98	79	100	97	101	89	65	79	131	135	133	66
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	20	19	30	14	18	29	18	20	31	19	22	26

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

TABLE 4

Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 2012 and from 1 October - 31 December 2012

Government body	2012 requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage meeting deadline	Percentage meeting deadline or with permitted extension	Q4 requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage meeting deadline	Percentage meeting deadline or with permitted extension
		20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to deadline	Late response (i.e. deadline missed)				20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to deadline	Late response (i.e. deadline missed)		
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	49,254	43,213	2,173	3,868	88%	92%	12,112	10,411	454	1,247	86%	90%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	32,817	28,086	1,723	3,008	86%	91%	8,251	6,879	377	995	83%	88%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	16,437	15,127	450	860	92%	95%	3,861	3,532	77	252	91%	93%
Departments of State												
Attorney General's Office	161	154	3	4	96%	98%	43	39	3	1	91%	98%
Cabinet Office #	1,605	1,256	241	108	78%	93%	378	298	62	18	79%	95%
Communities and Local Government	781	674	52	55	86%	93%	193	163	12	18	84%	91%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	1,009	897	74	38	89%	96%	232	202	20	10	87%	96%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	619	539	76	4	87%	99%	122	113	9	0	93%	100%
Department for Education #	1,309	1,009	31	269	77%	79%	315	253	6	56	80%	82%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	696	591	56	49	85%	93%	170	154	10	6	91%	96%
Department for International Development	408	371	33	4	91%	99%	105	91	13	1	87%	99%
Department for Transport #	3,142	2,934	68	140	93%	96%	836	778	19	39	93%	95%
Department for Work and Pensions #	4,769	3,986	35	748	84%	84%	1,282	1,010	9	263	79%	79%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	704	601	75	28	85%	96%	197	170	19	8	86%	96%
Department of Health	2,407	2,393	11	3	99%	100%	483	478	3	2	99%	100%
Export Credits Guarantee Department	64	48	3	13	75%	80%	10	4	0	6	*	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,337	976	263	98	73%	93%	332	246	64	22	74%	93%
HM Treasury #	2,775	2,523	179	73	91%	97%	679	626	29	24	92%	96%
Home Office #	3,906	3,037	240	629	78%	84%	1,110	746	49	315	67%	72%
Ministry of Defence #	3,428	2,763	258	407	81%	88%	853	698	40	115	82%	87%
Ministry of Justice #	3,205	2,922	6	277	91%	91%	781	700	0	81	90%	90%
Northern Ireland Office	206	176	2	28	85%	86%	53	52	0	1	98%	98%
Scotland Office	138	125	6	7	91%	95%	40	34	2	4	85%	90%
Wales Office	148	111	11	26	75%	82%	37	24	8	5	65%	86%

TABLE 4 continued

Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 2012 and from 1 October - 31 December 2012

Government body	2012 requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage meeting deadline	Percentage meeting deadline or with permitted extension	Q4 requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage meeting deadline	Percentage meeting deadline or with permitted extension
		20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to deadline	Late response (i.e. deadline missed)				20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to deadline	Late response (i.e. deadline missed)		
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Charity Commission	814	774	2	38	95%	95%	127	120	2	5	94%	96%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	140	137	0	3	98%	98%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Crown Prosecution Service	616	557	6	53	90%	91%	142	121	0	21	85%	85%
Debt Management Office	47	47	0	0	100%	100%	6	6	0	0	*	*
Food Standards Agency	144	132	11	1	92%	99%	34	32	2	0	94%	100%
Health and Safety Executive	6,652	6,155	89	408	93%	94%	1,641	1,503	25	113	92%	93%
HM Land Registry	293	288	0	5	98%	98%	87	85	0	2	98%	98%
HM Revenue and Customs	2,083	1,894	6	183	91%	91%	524	474	0	50	90%	90%
National Archives ^	2,639	2,299	298	42	87%	98%	597	543	42	12	91%	98%
National Savings and Investments	93	91	0	2	98%	98%	21	20	0	1	95%	95%
Office for National Statistics	227	198	0	29	87%	87%	71	57	0	14	80%	80%
Office for Standards in Education	697	678	6	13	97%	98%	162	155	1	6	96%	96%
Office of Fair Trading	380	369	0	11	97%	97%	105	97	0	8	92%	92%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	202	172	15	15	85%	93%	64	62	0	2	97%	97%
Office of Rail Regulation	153	135	6	12	88%	92%	31	28	2	1	90%	97%
Ordnance Survey	91	90	1	0	99%	100%	17	16	1	0	*	*
Royal Mint	29	25	0	4	86%	86%	4	4	0	0	*	*
Rural Payments Agency	455	450	5	0	99%	100%	99	99	0	0	100%	100%
Serious Fraud Office	119	95	3	21	80%	82%	37	27	1	9	73%	76%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	465	455	0	10	98%	98%	66	66	0	0	100%	100%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	98	86	2	10	88%	90%	26	17	1	8	65%	69%

Notes

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

^ - Although the standard statutory deadline for responding to an information request is 20 working days, a 30-day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to archived information. The National Archives' timeliness figures are therefore reported on this basis.

1 - Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. They are therefore excluded from the calculation of timeliness measures.

2 - "Permitted extensions" include:

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Freedom of Information Act is extended to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest.

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Environmental Information Regulations is extended because of the complexity or volume of the request.

TABLE 5

Proportion of non-routine information requests received that were answered "in time", by quarter, since 1 January 2010 (see footnote)

Government body	2010				2011				2012			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	89%	90%	92%	92%	91%	90%	93%	93%	94%	93%	92%	90%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	85%	88%	90%	89%	88%	88%	92%	92%	93%	92%	90%	88%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	94%	94%	96%	96%	96%	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	93%
<i>Departments of State</i>												
Attorney General's Office	96%	94%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%	96%	100%	95%	98%
Cabinet Office #	90%	88%	85%	77%	42%	55%	85%	92%	93%	92%	93%	95%
Communities and Local Government	94%	96%	97%	96%	96%	93%	92%	96%	94%	96%	92%	91%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	95%	95%	96%	93%	93%	83%	88%	93%	93%	98%	99%	96%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	98%	100%	99%	97%	99%	100%	100%	99%	98%	100%	100%	100%
Department for Education #	-	89%	69%	69%	72%	87%	81%	75%	78%	84%	74%	82%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	93%	87%	94%	94%	91%	92%	93%	84%	91%	92%	93%	96%
Department for International Development	96%	97%	98%	95%	98%	99%	98%	98%	100%	99%	98%	99%
Department for Transport #	94%	96%	92%	89%	92%	91%	93%	92%	95%	96%	96%	95%
Department for Work and Pensions #	77%	82%	96%	97%	98%	95%	96%	93%	89%	85%	83%	79%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	95%	96%	91%	89%	89%	91%	87%	97%	95%	97%	96%	96%
Department of Health	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Export Credits Guarantee Department	96%	*	*	*	78%	69%	*	*	93%	*	*	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	94%	98%	90%	93%	95%	94%	92%	95%	91%	91%	96%	93%
Government Equalities Office †	77%	*	97%	84%	100%	*	*	*	*	-	-	-
HM Treasury #	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	99%	95%	99%	96%
Home Office #	81%	80%	88%	90%	95%	96%	96%	88%	93%	89%	84%	72%
Ministry of Defence #	55%	69%	66%	71%	76%	81%	84%	85%	89%	90%	86%	87%
Ministry of Justice #	81%	84%	89%	88%	84%	75%	86%	91%	92%	92%	92%	90%
Northern Ireland Office	95%	95%	100%	98%	97%	98%	96%	87%	67%	87%	96%	98%
Scotland Office	73%	86%	100%	98%	*	98%	100%	98%	98%	93%	100%	90%
Wales Office	*	97%	92%	97%	90%	83%	97%	95%	96%	85%	59%	86%

TABLE 5 continued

Proportion of non-routine information requests received that were answered "in time", by quarter, since 1 January 2010 (see footnote)

Government body	2010				2011				2012			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Central Office of Information †	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-
Charity Commission	93%	96%	98%	93%	97%	91%	94%	95%	97%	95%	90%	96%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	64%	98%	100%	96%	99%	100%	98%	*	97%	98%	*	*
Crown Prosecution Service	96%	92%	95%	98%	93%	92%	89%	90%	97%	93%	90%	85%
Debt Management Office	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Standards Agency	91%	100%	94%	97%	100%	100%	97%	96%	100%	98%	100%	100%
Health and Safety Executive	93%	93%	93%	93%	93%	94%	95%	94%	94%	94%	95%	93%
HM Land Registry	96%	92%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	97%	100%	98%
HM Revenue and Customs	89%	92%	91%	92%	94%	92%	90%	92%	92%	92%	90%	90%
National Archives ^	98%	97%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	98%	98%
National Savings and Investments	96%	*	100%	95%	100%	93%	100%	91%	100%	96%	*	95%
Office for National Statistics	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	78%	84%	86%	95%	83%	93%	80%
Office for Standards in Education	97%	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%	98%	98%	100%	99%	97%	96%
Office of Fair Trading	98%	92%	97%	96%	95%	98%	96%	96%	98%	100%	99%	92%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	97%	89%	89%	88%	90%	87%	92%	89%	91%	88%	92%	97%
Office of Rail Regulation	94%	88%	97%	98%	96%	100%	95%	98%	86%	92%	95%	97%
Ordnance Survey	100%	*	*	*	91%	100%	100%	*	100%	100%	100%	*
Royal Mint	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rural Payments Agency	75%	85%	98%	99%	100%	93%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Serious Fraud Office	88%	*	100%	92%	92%	100%	55%	100%	92%	86%	76%	76%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	99%	99%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%	99%	98%	99%	95%	100%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	*	*	97%	100%	*	86%	*	100%	94%	*	100%	69%

- Figures supplied by these departments count requests received by one or more of their agencies, and those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

^ - Although the standard statutory deadline for responding to an information request is 20 working days, a 30-day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to archived information. The National Archives' timeliness figures are therefore reported on this basis.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

deadline.

Permitted extensions include:

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Freedom of Information Act is extended to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest.

Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. They are therefore excluded from this calculation.

TABLE 6
Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	49,457	3,309	9,611	36,537	19,813	5,288	10,679	757	54%	29%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	32,827	2,151	6,086	24,590	13,481	3,261	7,326	522	55%	30%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	16,630	1,158	3,525	11,947	6,332	2,027	3,353	235	53%	28%
Departments of State										
Attorney General's Office	164	0	99	65	36	8	18	3	55%	28%
Cabinet Office #	1,607	158	482	967	267	125	551	24	28%	57%
Communities and Local Government	780	0	133	647	453	100	82	12	70%	13%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	1,009	40	325	644	271	168	197	8	42%	31%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	597	97	147	353	251	37	59	6	71%	17%
Department for Education #	1,309	63	208	1,038	686	139	182	31	66%	18%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	699	22	115	562	369	98	95	0	66%	17%
Department for International Development	408	9	32	367	264	36	65	2	72%	18%
Department for Transport #	3,170	21	710	2,439	1,801	267	353	18	74%	14%
Department for Work and Pensions #	4,778	26	179	4,573	3,164	374	973	62	69%	21%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	704	31	188	485	185	145	148	7	38%	31%
Department of Health	2,405	40	596	1,769	701	185	883	0	40%	50%
Export Credits Guarantee Department	64	2	2	60	40	10	7	3	67%	12%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,338	158	210	970	274	360	284	52	28%	29%
HM Treasury #	2,779	462	774	1,543	567	260	640	76	37%	41%
Home Office #	3,903	609	594	2,700	1,299	402	883	116	48%	33%
Ministry of Defence #	3,433	150	616	2,667	1,723	244	636	64	65%	24%
Ministry of Justice #	3,182	218	501	2,463	966	267	1,198	32	39%	49%
Northern Ireland Office	206	23	84	99	57	14	26	2	58%	26%
Scotland Office	138	16	19	103	79	11	9	4	77%	9%
Wales Office	154	6	72	76	28	11	37	0	37%	49%

TABLE 6 continued
Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
Other bodies included in monitoring										
Charity Commission	815	49	92	674	410	201	61	2	61%	9%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	140	0	17	123	93	3	27	0	76%	22%
Crown Prosecution Service	616	50	116	450	214	28	199	9	48%	44%
Debt Management Office	44	3	12	29	26	2	1	0	90%	3%
Food Standards Agency	144	2	29	113	57	40	16	0	50%	14%
Health and Safety Executive	6,631	250	2,381	4,000	2,076	836	990	98	52%	25%
HM Land Registry	293	5	36	252	239	6	5	2	95%	2%
HM Revenue and Customs	2,084	79	212	1,793	702	92	995	4	39%	55%
National Archives	2,851	478	287	2,086	1,246	224	504	112	60%	24%
National Savings and Investments	93	0	7	86	65	1	19	1	76%	22%
Office for National Statistics	227	3	51	173	150	4	19	0	87%	11%
Office for Standards in Education	696	19	77	600	250	176	174	0	42%	29%
Office of Fair Trading	380	58	16	306	83	38	185	0	27%	60%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	202	20	25	157	108	40	9	0	69%	6%
Office of Rail Regulation	153	20	41	92	54	17	21	0	59%	23%
Ordnance Survey	91	0	23	68	50	15	3	0	74%	4%
Royal Mint	29	0	1	28	22	4	2	0	79%	7%
Rural Payments Agency	457	89	46	322	226	39	57	0	70%	18%
Serious Fraud Office	120	3	16	101	51	18	29	3	50%	29%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	465	6	24	435	172	231	32	0	40%	7%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	99	24	16	59	38	12	5	4	64%	8%

Notes

Please see the 'Notes on the Tables' section for important information about consistency between tables in this report.

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made.

2 - "Advice and Assistance" would be provided to a requester when the government body "reasonably requires further information in order to identify and locate the information requested". See section 1(3) of the Freedom of Information Act for further details.

3 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it is possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the requested information. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance (see note above) since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

4 - "Fully withheld" requests include those which were refused because it was estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

5 - This table counts as "resolvable" all requests where a response has not yet been provided. This assumption is likely to be generally true but may be incorrect in a small number of cases. It should also be noted that requests where a response has not yet been provided are more likely to involve considerations which are complex and finely balanced. As a result, it cannot be assumed that these requests will be granted and refused in the same proportions as "resolvable" requests in general.

TABLE 7

Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 October - 31 December 2012

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	12,112	810	2,411	8,891	4,875	1,137	2,396	483	55%	27%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	8,251	585	1,571	6,095	3,416	702	1,576	401	56%	26%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	3,861	225	840	2,796	1,459	435	820	82	52%	29%
Departments of State										
Attorney General's Office	43	0	27	16	8	1	4	3	*	*
Cabinet Office #	378	36	122	220	72	24	107	17	33%	49%
Communities and Local Government	193	0	37	156	112	16	17	11	72%	11%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	232	10	69	153	58	39	48	8	38%	31%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	122	6	37	79	52	6	18	3	66%	23%
Department for Education #	315	19	45	251	158	18	50	25	63%	20%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	170	10	22	138	105	11	22	0	76%	16%
Department for International Development	105	3	16	86	64	8	12	2	74%	14%
Department for Transport #	836	8	233	595	439	49	90	17	74%	15%
Department for Work and Pensions #	1,282	16	54	1,212	824	38	291	59	68%	24%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	197	9	40	148	60	37	45	6	41%	30%
Department of Health	483	16	149	318	183	37	98	0	58%	31%
Export Credits Guarantee Department	10	1	0	9	4	0	3	2	*	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	332	35	53	244	77	67	58	42	32%	24%
HM Treasury #	679	129	199	351	162	76	84	29	46%	24%
Home Office #	1,110	182	156	772	360	114	199	99	47%	26%
Ministry of Defence #	853	50	140	663	398	61	163	41	60%	25%
Ministry of Justice #	781	46	127	608	237	93	245	33	39%	40%
Northern Ireland Office	53	4	22	27	16	0	10	1	59%	37%
Scotland Office	40	5	6	29	21	2	3	3	72%	10%
Wales Office	37	0	17	20	6	5	9	0	*	*

TABLE 7 continued

Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 October - 31 December 2012

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
Other bodies included in monitoring										
Charity Commission	127	8	15	104	51	39	12	2	49%	12%
Crown Prosecution Service	142	14	31	97	42	8	40	7	43%	41%
Debt Management Office	6	0	3	3	2	1	0	0	*	*
Food Standards Agency	34	1	10	23	11	9	3	0	48%	13%
Health and Safety Executive	1,641	57	580	1,004	500	217	255	32	50%	25%
HM Land Registry	87	2	5	80	76	2	1	1	95%	1%
HM Revenue and Customs	524	17	48	459	163	13	279	4	36%	61%
National Archives	597	72	59	466	316	56	63	31	68%	14%
National Savings and Investments	21	0	2	19	15	0	3	1	*	*
Office for National Statistics	71	2	19	50	47	1	2	0	94%	4%
Office for Standards in Education	162	2	19	141	56	30	55	0	40%	39%
Office of Fair Trading	105	21	6	78	22	10	46	0	28%	59%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	64	7	4	53	42	7	4	0	79%	8%
Office of Rail Regulation	31	6	7	18	13	1	4	0	*	*
Ordnance Survey	17	0	4	13	10	2	1	0	*	*
Royal Mint	4	0	1	3	2	0	1	0	*	*
Rural Payments Agency	99	13	5	81	45	14	22	0	56%	27%
Serious Fraud Office	37	1	4	32	16	7	7	2	50%	22%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	66	2	14	50	17	12	21	0	34%	42%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	26	0	4	22	13	6	1	2	59%	5%

Notes

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

1 - Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made.

2 - "Advice and assistance" would be provided to a requester when the body "reasonably requires further information in order to identify and locate the information requested". See section 1(3) of the Freedom of Information Act for further details.

3 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it is possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the requested information. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance (see note above) since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

4 - "Fully withheld" requests include those which were refused because it was estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

5 - This table counts as "resolvable" all requests where a response has not yet been provided. This assumption is likely to be generally true but may be incorrect in a small number of cases.

It should also be noted that requests where a response has not yet been provided are more likely to involve considerations which are complex and finely balanced. As a result, it cannot be assumed that these requests will be granted and refused in the same proportions as "resolvable" requests in general.

TABLE 8

Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 January 2010 (see footnote)

Government body	2010				2011				2012			
	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	54%	58%	56%	55%	54%	54%	56%	55%	53%	53%	53%	55%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	55%	56%	54%	55%	53%	61%	57%	58%	52%	53%	54%	56%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	59%	55%	57%	55%	57%	54%	53%	52%	54%	54%	50%	52%
Departments of State												
Attorney General's Office	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	29%	*	*
Cabinet Office #	24%	38%	26%	26%	12%	23%	42%	30%	28%	19%	29%	33%
Communities and Local Government	77%	73%	73%	64%	78%	76%	70%	71%	70%	71%	62%	72%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	51%	50%	54%	53%	43%	32%	45%	43%	42%	42%	46%	38%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	64%	70%	56%	72%	61%	61%	67%	70%	72%	82%	62%	66%
Department for Education #	-	82%	68%	72%	66%	63%	57%	61%	66%	67%	63%	63%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	62%	67%	70%	62%	65%	62%	65%	60%	62%	59%	59%	76%
Department for International Development	52%	52%	68%	76%	61%	68%	70%	62%	75%	67%	69%	74%
Department for Transport #	74%	71%	72%	72%	70%	77%	76%	77%	77%	69%	75%	74%
Department for Work and Pensions #	55%	72%	63%	65%	63%	61%	64%	66%	65%	65%	69%	68%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	46%	53%	48%	47%	45%	59%	39%	55%	36%	40%	33%	41%
Department of Health	70%	70%	73%	71%	63%	69%	69%	76%	30%	42%	46%	58%
Export Credits Guarantee Department	52%	*	*	*	*	70%	*	*	68%	*	*	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	26%	33%	28%	39%	28%	21%	34%	32%	26%	20%	34%	32%
Government Equalities Office †	77%	*	93%	61%	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-
HM Treasury #	50%	70%	60%	50%	54%	45%	45%	42%	37%	36%	26%	46%
Home Office #	47%	54%	51%	54%	51%	51%	51%	49%	49%	44%	47%	47%
Ministry of Defence #	46%	65%	58%	63%	57%	60%	60%	59%	65%	66%	65%	60%
Ministry of Justice #	28%	31%	33%	31%	27%	26%	31%	37%	37%	40%	38%	39%
Northern Ireland Office	45%	69%	68%	50%	*	71%	61%	77%	52%	50%	60%	59%
Scotland Office	55%	*	58%	44%	*	68%	62%	85%	77%	78%	*	72%
Wales Office	*	*	73%	81%	38%	52%	*	*	*	*	42%	*

TABLE 8 continued

Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 January 2010 (see footnote)

Government body	2010				2011				2012			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Central Office of Information †	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-
Charity Commission	66%	64%	64%	60%	66%	67%	68%	64%	71%	61%	49%	49%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	66%	56%	57%	61%	72%	71%	65%	*	77%	72%	*	*
Crown Prosecution Service	60%	49%	51%	62%	52%	48%	45%	40%	44%	55%	46%	43%
Debt Management Office	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Standards Agency	39%	38%	32%	31%	63%	*	57%	79%	48%	50%	55%	48%
Health and Safety Executive	53%	53%	52%	51%	53%	52%	53%	52%	56%	52%	49%	50%
HM Land Registry	91%	93%	91%	94%	76%	84%	92%	87%	92%	97%	96%	95%
HM Revenue and Customs	53%	49%	47%	41%	48%	41%	45%	41%	40%	45%	35%	36%
National Archives	56%	48%	48%	45%	62%	57%	57%	60%	61%	54%	57%	68%
National Savings and Investments	64%	*	46%	68%	76%	73%	91%	*	70%	91%	*	*
Office for National Statistics	77%	74%	77%	91%	72%	78%	80%	74%	72%	97%	83%	94%
Office for Standards in Education	61%	62%	61%	67%	63%	51%	43%	43%	46%	42%	37%	40%
Office of Fair Trading	41%	31%	26%	24%	14%	19%	20%	20%	25%	27%	29%	28%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	67%	68%	67%	*	43%	48%	*	57%	61%	51%	59%	79%
Office of Rail Regulation	82%	59%	*	75%	61%	80%	76%	*	54%	59%	50%	*
Ordnance Survey	100%	*	*	65%	*	*	79%	*	*	*	*	*
Royal Mint	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rural Payments Agency	72%	90%	78%	72%	58%	70%	63%	60%	73%	78%	75%	56%
Serious Fraud Office	48%	*	*	24%	*	*	*	25%	*	66%	*	50%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	37%	44%	49%	41%	35%	57%	68%	64%	46%	33%	43%	34%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	90%	12%	*	*	59%

- Figures supplied by these departments count requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

Notes

"Resolvable requests" are all those where it would have been possible to provide a substantive response. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance to the requester, since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

TABLE 9

Statutory reasons given by monitored bodies for fully withholding non-routine information requested during 2012

Government body	Total "resolvable" requests ¹	Total requests where information was fully withheld	Reason for fully withholding information			
			Vexatious FoI request ²	Repeated FoI request ²	Cost of response would exceed cost limit ³	Information is exempt / excepted ⁴
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	36,537	10,679	161	140	3,892	6,486
TOTAL for Departments of State only	24,590	7,326	92	130	3,287	3,817
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	11,947	3,353	69	10	605	2,669
Departments of State						
Attorney General's Office	65	18	2	0	0	16
Cabinet Office #	967	551	4	0	192	355
Communities and Local Government	647	82	0	1	26	55
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	644	197	0	3	144	50
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	353	59	0	0	29	30
Department for Education #	1,038	182	0	0	72	110
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	562	95	1	0	11	83
Department for International Development	367	65	3	0	52	10
Department for Transport #	2,439	353	5	5	144	199
Department for Work and Pensions #	4,573	973	45	94	226	608
Department of Energy and Climate Change	485	148	0	0	91	57
Department of Health	1,769	883	0	1	168	714
Export Credits Guarantee Department	60	7	0	0	6	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	970	284	11	2	169	102
HM Treasury #	1,543	640	2	0	327	311
Home Office #	2,700	883	7	10	485	381
Ministry of Defence #	2,667	636	9	5	322	300
Ministry of Justice #	2,463	1,198	3	9	793	393
Northern Ireland Office	99	26	0	0	17	9
Scotland Office	103	9	0	0	1	8
Wales Office	76	37	0	0	12	25

TABLE 9 continued
Statutory reasons given by monitored bodies for fully withholding non-routine information requested during 2012

Government body	Total "resolvable" requests ¹	Total requests where information was fully withheld	Reason for fully withholding information			
			Vexatious FoI request ²	Repeated FoI request ²	Cost of response would exceed cost limit ³	Information is exempt / excepted ⁴
Other bodies included in monitoring						
Charity Commission	674	61	0	0	10	51
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	123	27	0	0	5	22
Crown Prosecution Service	450	199	1	0	87	111
Debt Management Office	29	1	0	1	0	0
Food Standards Agency	113	16	0	0	8	8
Health and Safety Executive	4,000	990	2	4	17	967
HM Land Registry	252	5	0	0	1	4
HM Revenue and Customs	1,793	995	60	4	424	507
National Archives	2,086	504	0	0	5	499
National Savings and Investments	86	19	0	0	3	16
Office for National Statistics	173	19	0	0	4	15
Office for Standards in Education	600	174	0	1	8	165
Office of Fair Trading	306	185	1	0	7	177
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	157	9	0	0	4	5
Office of Rail Regulation	92	21	0	0	8	13
Ordnance Survey	68	3	1	0	0	2
Royal Mint	28	2	0	0	0	2
Rural Payments Agency	322	57	0	0	3	54
Serious Fraud Office	101	29	0	0	8	21
Treasury Solicitor's Department	435	32	4	0	0	28
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	59	5	0	0	3	2

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it would have been possible to provide a substantive response. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance (see note above) since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

2 - Where a request for information is vexatious or repeated, public authorities are not obliged to release the information being sought. See Section 14 of the FOI Act.

3 - Section 12 of the FOI Act states that public authorities are not obliged to release information where the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. This limit is set in secondary legislation at £600 for central government departments.

4 - In these cases, the requested information was deemed to fall in one or more of the categories of exempt information ("exemptions") listed in Part II of the FOI Act, or under one of the corresponding "exceptions to the duty to disclose environmental information" in Part 3 of the EIRs.

TABLE 10
Exemptions (FOI) and exceptions (EIRs) applied by monitored bodies when withholding non-routine information requested during 2012

Government body	Total requests where one or more exemptions / exceptions were applied ¹	Exemptions listed in Part 2 ³ of the FoI Act																							
		S.22 - Information intended for future publication	S.23 - Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters	S.24 - National security	S.26 - Defence	S.27 - International relations	S.28 - Relations within the United Kingdom	S.29 - The economy	S.30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities	S.31 - Law enforcement	S.32 - Court records, etc.	S.33 - Audit functions	S.34 - Parliamentary privilege	S.35 - Formulation of Government policy, etc.	S.36 - Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs	S.37 - Communications with Her Majesty, etc. and honours	S.38 - Health and Safety	S.39 - Environmental information	S.40 - Personal information	S.41 - Information provided in confidence	S.42 - Legal professional privilege	S.43 - Commercial interests	S.44 - Prohibitions on disclosure	All EIR exemptions	
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	11,774	885	327	268	133	380	34	78	965	843	212	26	5	1,485	411	65	245		4,889	558	236	1,065	752	712	
TOTAL for Departments of State only	7,078	772	293	264	121	357	31	76	60	424	173	15	5	1,457	393	56	125		2,614	272	170	866	110	574	
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	4,696	113	34	4	12	23	3	2	905	419	39	11	0	28	18	9	120		2,275	286	66	199	642	138	
Departments of State																									
Attorney General's Office	24	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	1	0		5	0	4	0	0	0	
Cabinet Office #	480	66	38	42	9	35	6	1	0	9	0	13	0	103	26	33	16		86	23	12	22	1	0	
Communities and Local Government	155	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	26	26	0	3		26	9	5	11	0	39	
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	218	44	3	4	1	15	2	0	5	7	0	0	0	42	13	0	5		135	38	13	86	5	31	
Department for Education #	249	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	0	50	90	1	3		79	8	7	46	0	0	
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	67	18	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	8	2	0		11	2	3	11	1	2	
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	181	7	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	11	0	0	1		11	8	7	12	1	136	
Department for International Development	46	12	2	3	0	25	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	23	0	0	2		30	4	3	8	0	0	
Department for Transport #	466	49	2	14	0	5	0	3	7	52	1	0	0	36	54	0	3		166	27	12	96	39	56	
Department for Work and Pensions #	982	41	0	0	0	0	0	1	23	4	1	0	0	25	25	0	4		706	12	11	129	19	0	
Department of Energy and Climate Change	202	15	2	2	0	4	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	27	11	2	0		81	15	7	32	0	206	
Department of Health	899	73	1	2	0	1	4	0	2	8	2	0	0	583	12	0	2		138	14	10	45	2	2	
Export Credits Guarantee Department	11	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		7	0	0	4	0	2	
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	462	59	116	53	3	168	0	3	2	13	1	0	0	50	4	12	20		219	37	17	43	2	20	
HM Treasury #	571	48	7	9	1	21	9	68	0	9	0	0	1	318	9	0	1		71	22	9	96	4	74	
Home Office #	783	65	79	94	2	44	2	0	5	233	1	1	4	60	99	1	22		275	28	18	90	13	0	
Ministry of Defence #	544	53	36	32	105	35	2	0	14	16	2	0	0	24	10	3	24		167	15	13	70	12	4	
Ministry of Justice #	660	131	3	3	0	0	1	0	2	47	163	0	0	34	2	1	18		377	10	12	65	11	2	
Northern Ireland Office	23	4	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	0		9	0	1	0	0	0	
Scotland Office	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	1		7	0	4	0	0	0	
Wales Office	36	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	2	0	0		8	0	2	0	0	0	

See EIR exceptions - final column³

TABLE 10 continued
Exemptions (FOI) and exceptions (EIRs) applied by monitored bodies when withholding non-routine information requested during 2012

Government body	Total requests where one or more exemptions / exceptions were applied ¹	Exemptions listed in Part 2 ³ of the FoI Act																			All EIR exemptions		
		S.22 - Information intended for future publication	S.23 - Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters	S.24 - National security	S.26 - Defence	S.27 - International relations	S.28 - Relations within the United Kingdom	S.29 - The economy	S.30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities	S.31 - Law enforcement	S.32 - Court records, etc.	S.33 - Audit functions	S.34 - Parliamentary privilege	S.35 - Formulation of Government policy, etc.	S.36 - Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs	S.37 - Communications with Her Majesty, etc. and honours	S.38 - Health and Safety	S.39 - Environmental information	S.40 - Personal information	S.41 - Information provided in confidence		S.42 - Legal professional privilege	S.43 - Commercial interests
Other bodies included in monitoring																							
Charity Commission	252	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	41	14	0	0	1	1	0	0	190	34	7	10	0	0
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	25	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	1	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	139	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	88	0	5	0	0	0	2	0	3	123	1	1	1	0	0
Debt Management Office	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	48	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	34	0	2	15	1	0
Health and Safety Executive	1,803	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	775	102	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	802	108	14	33	0	41
HM Land Registry	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	4	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	599	40	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	28	0	0	0	20	4	1	2	57	2	6	26	437	2
National Archives	723	1	30	2	0	15	0	0	0	36	1	0	0	0	0	7	89	647	22	0	1	0	0
National Savings and Investments	17	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	1	0	11	3	0
Office for National Statistics	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	2	9	0
Office for Standards in Education	341	53	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	27	0	11	0	0	3	0	24	244	41	3	20	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	215	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	55	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	5	9	6	185	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	45	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	13	2	2	12	3	10
Office of Rail Regulation	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	1	1	0
Ordnance Survey	17	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	8	0	0	5	0	0
Royal Mint	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	3	0	85
Serious Fraud Office	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	259	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	108	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	66	6	38	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	16	6	3	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - A single request can be subject to more than one exemption. Therefore, the total number of individual exemptions used may be greater than the number of requests to which exemptions were applied.

2 - "Exemptions" refers to the provisions in Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act (and the similar "exceptions" in Part 3 of the Environmental Information Regulations) which classify certain types of information as exempt from the release obligations. More than one exemption or exception can apply to a single information request.

3 - The exemption described in section 21 of the Act ("Information accessible ... by other means") is not listed here, because requests falling under this exemption do not meet the formal definition of a "non-routine" request and therefore are not counted in these monitoring statistics.

4 - The exemption listed at section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act ("Environmental Information") effectively states that information requests which fall within the scope of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) should be handled as these Regulations specify. Requests for environmental information which are refused should apply one of the EIR exceptions listed above.

TABLE 11

Outcomes of Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012, where the requested information was initially withheld

Government body	Total Internal Reviews	Internal Reviews with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of Internal Reviews with known outcome, number where initial handling of request was:			Percentage of Internal Reviews where initial handling was upheld in full
			Upheld in full	Upheld in part	Overturned	
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	2,724	2,558	1,914	353	291	75%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	2,274	2,134	1,559	307	268	73%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	450	424	355	46	23	84%
Departments of State						
Attorney General's Office	8	8	8	0	0	*
Cabinet Office #	173	166	143	14	9	86%
Communities and Local Government	53	47	40	6	1	85%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	54	52	41	9	2	79%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	17	17	17	0	0	*
Department for Education #	63	57	50	5	2	88%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	32	25	17	5	3	68%
Department for International Development	20	18	15	2	1	*
Department for Transport #	80	79	58	13	8	73%
Department for Work and Pensions #	874	833	570	101	162	68%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	49	48	33	11	4	69%
Department of Health	116	116	93	10	13	80%
Export Credits Guarantee Department	2	1	0	1	0	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	102	90	64	21	5	71%
HM Treasury #	85	47	33	6	8	70%
Home Office #	240	234	176	37	21	75%
Ministry of Defence #	103	94	46	34	14	49%
Ministry of Justice #	177	177	136	27	14	77%
Northern Ireland Office	9	8	6	2	0	*
Scotland Office	5	5	2	3	0	*
Wales Office	12	12	11	0	1	*

TABLE 11 continued

Outcomes of Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012, where the requested information was initially withheld

Government body	Total Internal Reviews	Internal Reviews with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of Internal Reviews with known outcome, number where initial handling of request was:			Percentage of Internal Reviews where initial handling was upheld in full
			Upheld in full	Upheld in part	Overturned	
Other bodies included in monitoring						
Charity Commission	20	18	10	8	0	*
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	0	0	0	0	0	*
Crown Prosecution Service	48	42	29	9	4	69%
Debt Management Office	2	2	2	0	0	*
Food Standards Agency	5	5	3	2	0	*
Health and Safety Executive	52	50	39	5	6	78%
HM Land Registry	6	6	3	0	3	*
HM Revenue and Customs	205	190	181	6	3	95%
National Archives	34	34	28	6	0	82%
National Savings and Investments	4	4	1	3	0	*
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	*
Office for Standards in Education	24	24	21	1	2	88%
Office of Fair Trading	10	10	10	0	0	*
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	2	2	0	2	0	*
Office of Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0	0	*
Ordnance Survey	2	2	1	0	1	*
Royal Mint	1	1	0	1	0	*
Rural Payments Agency	14	14	9	1	4	*
Serious Fraud Office	13	12	10	2	0	*
Treasury Solicitor's Department	5	5	5	0	0	*
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	3	3	3	0	0	*

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an "Internal Review" if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether to release requested information. This process should be a fair and impartial review of the initial decision. Requesters who are still not content with the outcome of the Internal Review can make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner if they wish (see Section 50 of the FOI Act).

TABLE 12

Duration of completed Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012, where the requested information was initially withheld

Government body	Total Internal Reviews ²	Internal Reviews with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of completed Internal Reviews, number where the duration of the review period was:						
			10 days or less	Between 11 and 20 days	Between 21 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
TOTAL for all monitored bodies²	2,724	2,558	259	1,321	622	176	77	28	25
As a percentage of total requests received ³	6.4%	6.0%	0.6%	3.1%	1.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	2,274	2,134	231	1,153	491	139	70	25	25
As a percentage of total requests received ⁴	6.9%	6.5%	0.7%	3.5%	1.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies²	450	424	28	168	131	37	7	3	0
As a percentage of total requests received ³	4.5%	4.2%	0.3%	1.7%	1.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Departments of State									
Attorney General's Office	8	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	173	166	12	24	83	33	10	3	1
Communities and Local Government	53	47	2	36	8	1	0	0	0
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	54	52	7	32	11	1	0	1	0
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	17	17	1	8	4	2	1	1	0
Department for Education #	63	57	2	27	21	4	2	1	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	32	25	6	16	2	0	0	0	1
Department for International Development	20	18	6	10	2	0	0	0	0
Department for Transport #	80	79	8	59	10	2	0	0	0
Department for Work and Pensions #	874	833	111	458	169	50	35	8	2
Department of Energy and Climate Change	49	48	0	20	22	6	0	0	0
Department of Health	116	116	10	92	12	1	1	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	102	90	7	37	35	5	5	1	0
HM Treasury #	85	47	6	6	8	9	5	4	9
Home Office #	240	234	13	136	56	15	6	3	5
Ministry of Defence #	103	94	15	45	23	3	3	1	4
Ministry of Justice #	177	177	20	128	18	5	2	2	2
Northern Ireland Office	9	8	2	2	3	0	0	0	1
Scotland Office	5	5	0	2	1	2	0	0	0
Wales Office	12	12	3	7	2	0	0	0	0

TABLE 12 continued

Duration of completed Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012, where the requested information was initially withheld

Government body	Total Internal Reviews	Internal Reviews with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of completed Internal Reviews, number where the duration of the review period was:						
			10 days or less	Between 11 and 20 days	Between 21 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
Other bodies included in monitoring									
Charity Commission	20	18	1	13	4	0	0	0	0
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	48	42	3	9	13	13	3	1	0
Debt Management Office	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	5	5	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Executive	52	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HM Land Registry	6	6	5	0	0	1	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	205	190	13	103	57	14	2	1	0
National Archives	34	34	1	5	23	3	2	0	0
National Savings and Investments	4	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	24	24	2	9	11	2	0	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	10	10	0	8	2	0	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Office of Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	14	14	0	2	10	2	0	0	0
Serious Fraud Office	13	12	0	6	5	1	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	5	5	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an "Internal Review" if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether to release requested information. This process should be a fair and impartial review of the initial decision. Requesters who are still not content with the outcome of the Internal Review can make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner if they wish (see Section 50 of the FOI Act).

2 - The totals shown do not include those monitored bodies who were unable to provide information on Internal Review durations (see footnote 5), therefore some do not equal those shown in Table 11.

3 - Excluding "on-hold" and "lapsed" requests, and all requests received by those monitored bodies which were not able to provide data on Internal Review durations in 2012.

4 - Excluding "on-hold" and "lapsed" requests.

TABLE 13

Duration of Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies in 2011, where the requested information was initially withheld, and which were reported as not completed* in the 2011 end-year monitoring statistics

Government body	Internal Reviews with unknown outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring in 2011) ²	Of completed Internal Reviews, number where the duration of the review period was:						
		10 days or less	Between 11 and 20 days	Between 21 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
TOTAL for all monitored bodies²	144	4	16	30	21	15	8	47
TOTAL for Departments of State only	100	2	10	14	11	14	7	39
TOTAL for other monitored bodies²	44	2	6	16	10	1	1	8
Departments of State								
Attorney General's Office	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	16	0	2	0	2	4	1	7
Communities and Local Government	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	4	0	0	1	0	2	0	1
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department for Education #	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department for International Development	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Department for Transport #	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Department for Work and Pensions #	15	0	0	2	1	1	2	9
Department of Energy and Climate Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Health	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	25	2	2	9	4	6	1	1
HM Treasury #	20	0	0	0	1	0	1	18
Home Office #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ministry of Defence #	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Ministry of Justice #	5	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Northern Ireland Office	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Scotland Office	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Wales Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 13 continued

Duration of Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies in 2011, where the requested information was initially withheld, and which were reported as not completed* in the 2011 end-year monitoring statistics

Government body	Internal Reviews with unknown outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring 2011) ²	Of completed Internal Reviews, number where the duration of the review period was:						
		10 days or less	Between 11 and 20 days	Between 21 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
Other bodies included in monitoring								
Charity Commission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Executive ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HM Land Registry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	38	2	4	15	9	1	1	6
National Archives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
National Savings and Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Serious Fraud Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	4	0	2	1	1	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - These figures relate to those reported as being 'in progress' at the end of the reporting period last year. They are not representative of the timeliness of all Internal Reviews completed by monitored bodies statistics on this are available in table 12

1 - Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an "Internal Review" if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether to release requested information. This process should be a fair and impartial review of the initial decision. Requesters who are still not content with the outcome of the Internal Review can make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner if they wish (see Section 50 of the FOI Act).

2 - The totals shown include those monitored bodies who are unable to provide information on Internal Review durations (see footnote 3)

3 - The Health and Safety Executive were not able to provide data on non-completed Internal Review durations from 2011 end-year monitoring statistics.

TABLE 14

Outcomes of appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)¹ about the handling of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012

Government body	Total ICO Appeals	ICO Appeals with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of ICO Appeals with known outcome, number where initial handling of request was:		
			Upheld in full	Upheld in part	Overtaken
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	351	186	126	29	31
TOTAL for Departments of State only	285	143	95	19	29
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	66	43	31	10	2
Departments of State					
Attorney General's Office	1	1	1	0	0
Cabinet Office #	47	36	25	4	7
Communities and Local Government	17	2	0	0	2
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	6	2	2	0	0
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	5	1	0	1	0
Department for Education #	30	12	10	2	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	3	3	2	1	0
Department for International Development	3	0	0	0	0
Department for Transport #	9	5	4	0	1
Department for Work and Pensions #	32	11	3	0	8
Department of Energy and Climate Change	8	4	4	0	0
Department of Health	23	9	5	1	3
Export Credits Guarantee Department	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	17	7	4	1	2
HM Treasury #	6	3	3	0	0
Home Office #	32	11	6	4	1
Ministry of Defence #	8	3	2	1	0
Ministry of Justice #	37	33	24	4	5
Northern Ireland Office	1	0	0	0	0
Scotland Office	0	0	0	0	0
Wales Office	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 14 continued

Outcomes of appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)¹ about the handling of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012

Government body	Total ICO Appeals	ICO Appeals with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of ICO Appeals with known outcome, number where initial handling of request was:		
			Upheld in full	Upheld in part	Overtured
Other bodies included in monitoring					
Charity Commission	4	1	1	0	0
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	10	7	1	6	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Executive	14	13	11	1	1
HM Land Registry	3	2	2	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	18	11	10	0	1
National Archives	4	4	3	1	0
National Savings and Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	2	0	0	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	3	0	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	2	2	0	2	0
Serious Fraud Office	3	0	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	0	0	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	3	3	3	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - If an applicant is not satisfied with the outcome of a public authority's "Internal Review" of the handling of their information request, they may make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner. If the Commissioner decides that the public authority has not complied with the FOI Act, he may issue a "decision notice" setting out the steps to be taken in order to achieve compliance.

TABLE 15

Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest¹ which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012

Government body	Total requests extended ²	Extended requests processed in full (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of extended requests processed in full, number where the extension to the deadline was:									
			5 days or less	Between 6 and 10 days	Between 11 and 15 days	Between 16 and 20 days	Between 21 and 30 days	Between 31 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	1,992	1,746	144	140	130	505	246	174	184	112	41	70
As a percentage of total requests received ³	5.0%	4.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	1.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	1,679	1,493	137	130	120	487	228	135	127	69	25	35
As a percentage of total requests received ⁴	5.1%	4.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	1.5%	0.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	313	253	7	10	10	18	18	39	57	43	16	35
As a percentage of total requests received ³	4.4%	3.5%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%	0.2%	0.5%
Departments of State												
Attorney General's Office	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	226	207	29	39	29	24	37	24	18	5	2	0
Communities and Local Government	57	49	3	0	4	12	12	3	10	2	0	3
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	74	67	1	1	0	43	2	7	6	2	3	2
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	80	74	0	3	2	41	11	7	6	3	1	0
Department for Education #	31	28	2	2	6	2	5	5	5	0	0	1
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	59	59	21	4	6	21	3	2	2	0	0	0
Department for International Development	31	29	1	11	2	5	6	2	1	1	0	0
Department for Transport #	76	74	4	10	6	42	4	7	0	1	0	0
Department for Work and Pensions #	35	31	2	1	2	9	4	4	6	2	1	0
Department of Energy and Climate Change	75	70	3	5	0	46	3	4	4	4	0	1
Department of Health	47	47	0	6	1	7	32	1	0	0	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	262	217	12	18	10	72	31	22	22	18	3	9
HM Treasury #	182	125	15	11	4	25	12	19	17	8	5	9
Home Office #	238	232	26	12	28	85	37	10	16	10	3	5
Ministry of Defence #	175	158	18	5	19	47	19	12	13	13	7	5
Ministry of Justice #	10	10	0	0	0	2	7	0	1	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Office	3	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland Office	6	4	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Wales Office	9	9	0	2	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0

TABLE 15 continued

Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest¹ which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2012

Government body	Total requests extended ²	Extended requests processed in full (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of extended requests processed in full, number where the extension to the deadline was:									
			5 days or less	Between 6 and 10 days	Between 11 and 15 days	Between 16 and 20 days	Between 21 and 30 days	Between 31 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Charity Commission	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	6	6	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	12	12	0	3	0	6	2	1	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Executive ⁵	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HM Land Registry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	7	7	3	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
National Archives	253	197	0	0	0	0	11	37	57	42	16	34
National Savings and Investments	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	6	6	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	10	10	1	2	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	6	6	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	5	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious Fraud Office	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Treasury Solicitor's Department	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - Public authorities are allowed to extend the standard deadline for responding to an information request (normally 20 working days) to allow for the consideration of public interest issues. See Section 10(2) of the FOI Act.

2 - There are some small differences between the number of PIT extensions shown above and in Table 2. Please see the Notes on the Tables section regarding the consistency between tables in this report. The totals shown do not include those monitored bodies who were unable to provide information on PIT extension durations (see footnote 5).

3 - Excluding "on-hold" and "lapsed" requests, and all requests received by those other monitored bodies which were not able to provide data on PIT extension durations in 2011 (see footnote 5).

4 - Excluding "on-hold" and "lapsed" cases.

5 - The Health and Safety Executive were not able to provide data on PIT extension durations in 2012.

TABLE 16

Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest¹ which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2011, and which were reported as not completed* in the 2011 end-year monitoring statistics

Government body	Uncompleted extended requests (at time of end-of-year monitoring 2011) ²	Of extended requests processed in full, number where the extension to the deadline was:									
		5 days or less	Between 6 and 10 days	Between 11 and 15 days	Between 16 and 20 days	Between 21 and 30 days	Between 31 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	235	4	0	3	10	13	10	21	11	23	140
TOTAL for Departments of State only	202	3	0	3	9	13	10	17	8	17	122
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	33	1	0	0	1	0	0	4	3	6	18
Departments of State											
Attorney General's Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	9	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	1	2
Communities and Local Government	14	2	0	0	2	4	2	1	0	0	3
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Department for Education #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Department for International Development	2	0	0	0	1	0		0	1		0
Department for Transport #	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Department for Work and Pensions #	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Energy and Climate Change	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Department of Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Export Credits Guarantee Department	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	26	1	0	0	1	0	3	5	5	3	8
HM Treasury #	79	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	5	69
Home Office #	24	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5	17
Ministry of Defence #	26	0	0	0	2	4	1	4	0	2	13
Ministry of Justice #	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Office	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Scotland Office	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wales Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 16 continued

Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest¹ which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2011, and which were reported as not completed* in the 2011 end-year monitoring statistics

Government body	Uncompleted extended requests (at time of end-of-year monitoring 2011) ²	Of extended requests processed in full, number where the extension to the deadline was:									
		5 days or less	Between 6 and 10 days	Between 11 and 15 days	Between 16 and 20 days	Between 21 and 30 days	Between 31 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
Other bodies included in monitoring											
Charity Commission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Health and Safety Executive ³	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HM Land Registry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
National Archives	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	6	16
National Savings and Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious Fraud Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - These figures relate to those reported as being 'in progress' at the end of the reporting period last year. They are not representative of the timeliness of all public interest tests completed by monitored bodies statistics on this are available in table 15

1 - Public authorities are allowed to extend the standard deadline for responding to an information request (normally 20 working days) to allow for the consideration of public interest issues. See Section 10(2) of the FOI Act.

2 - The totals shown do not include those monitored bodies who were unable to provide information on PIT extension durations (see footnote 3).

3 - The Health and Safety Executive were not able to provide data on non-completed PIT extension durations from 2011 end-year monitoring statistics.

Notes on the tables

Consistency between tables

Statistical tables shown in this report are based on either:

- Aggregates of the four quarterly monitoring returns completed for 2012.
- Annual data for the whole of 2012 collected separately at the end of the year.

For a number of monitored bodies, there are minor discrepancies between these two data sources in their reported numbers of FOI / EIR requests received. As a result the data given in tables that aggregate the four monthly returns is not fully consistent with that given in the other tables of this report. This issue mostly affects tables **1, 4 and 5**. This also affects the commentary, which favours annual to quarterly figures.

The nature, size and causes of the discrepancies between these two sources will vary from body to body. However, informal explanations have included:

- information requests being notified to central FOI teams too late for inclusion in quarterly monitoring returns;
- information requests initially counted, but later identified as requiring only routine handling and therefore not within the scope of these statistics;
- requests flagged as requiring a deadline extension at the time of quarterly monitoring by central FOI teams, but later found to have been answered within the standard time limit and a deadline extension was not required.

The overall magnitude of these discrepancies is small, particularly when grouping together monitored bodies. By way of illustration, the reported total number of requests received by monitored bodies during the year (excluding on-hold and lapsed requests) is 49,472 from quarterly data, and 49,464 from annual data - a difference of less than 0.1%. However, within a single department there are often larger discrepancies between quarterly and annual figures.

We believe that the annual figures provide a more accurate picture of the overall numbers of FOI / EIR requests received, principally because they were collected more recently, thereby incorporating late-notified requests and any revisions to ensure consistency with monitoring requirements.

Another source of inconsistency is human error and misunderstanding when filling in monitoring forms. This has led to a contradiction in the number of 'lapsed/on hold' requests where the Q4 return is greater than the annual.

Annex B – Important note on the scope and consistency of the statistics

Defining the scope of Freedom of Information monitoring

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) states that (subject to certain conditions):

“Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and

(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him”

Regulation 5 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 states that (subject to certain conditions):

“A public authority that holds environmental information shall make it available on request.”

Following their introduction on 1 January 2005, the above provisions apply to all relevant requests for information made to public authorities, no matter how routine and straightforward they may be.

Government departments supply large amounts of information, both on request and proactively, as an established and routine part of their business. This includes information released in the form of leaflets, correspondence exchanges, reports and other published material, and through websites and departmental FOI Publication Schemes. All information released on request is covered by the Freedom of Information Act. However, it would be both uninformative and fundamentally unfeasible to count all such activity in departmental Freedom of Information monitoring returns.

The statistics in this bulletin therefore relate only to **the “non-routine” information requests** that government departments have received. Essentially, this means that departments’ statistics should only count those requests where:

1. it was necessary to take a considered view on how to handle the request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, and
2. departmental Freedom of Information officer(s) were informed of the request and logged it in their case management systems.

Defining a request

The full definition of an “information request” for the purposes of inclusion in the Ministry of Justice’s monitoring returns is shown below. This definition was circulated to members of the central government “Freedom of Information Practitioners’ Group” in November 2004.

“[An information request for monitoring purposes is one ...]

1. *Which meets the criteria in section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act and if the request falls under the Environmental Information Regulations it includes requests made in any form or context, including oral requests; **and***
2. *Which is a request for information that is not already reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means; **and***
 - (i) Which results in the release of one or more documents (in any media) or inclusion of extracts of documents in the information released; **or***
 - (ii) Results in information being withheld under an exemption or exception from the right of access (either the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations); **or***
 - (iii) The request is not processed because the department estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit in accordance with section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act; **or***
 - (iv) The request is not processed because the department is relying on the provisions of section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act; **or***
 - (v) Where a search is made for information sought in the request and it is found that none is held.”*

Consistency of the statistics

It is necessary to apply a definition of this sort in order to set a clear boundary to the coverage of our monitoring, and thereby obtain meaningful information from the process. The definition shown above has been widely disseminated to Freedom of Information officers in government and we have tried to ensure that it is applied consistently across all monitored bodies.

However, there is considerable variation in the way these bodies are structured and managed, and in the mechanisms that they have put in place to meet their obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. For example, some bodies operate a centralised Freedom of Information secretariat that co-ordinates responses to all information requests received. Others give a greater degree of autonomy to individual work areas in the handing of information requests.

As a result of these differences, there could be a degree of inconsistency in the way in which bodies have interpreted and applied the definition of an “information request” for monitoring purposes. However, the statistics effectively count those requests which have been dealt with by each monitored body formally under the FOI Act. As such, the statistics report on how many such requests for information each monitored body has received and how they have implemented the Act’s requirements in providing responses. Direct comparisons between the statistics for different monitored bodies can therefore be made on this basis.

In summary, it is important to note that:

- (i) These statistics only cover “non-routine” information requests, and do not give a representative picture of all requests for information received in government.**
- (ii) There is likely to be a degree of inconsistency between monitored bodies’ interpretations of the definition of an “information request” for monitoring purposes. This should be borne in mind when using these statistics.**

Uses of the statistics

The main users of these statistics are departmental FOI teams responsible for coordinating responses and requests, Ministers and officials with responsibility for developing information access policy, and other non-governmental bodies with an interest in the accessibility of government information. The statistics are used to monitor the implementation of the FOI Act by central government, both as a whole and by each individual body included in the figures.

Annex C – Government bodies included in these statistics

The statistics in this bulletin have been derived from monitoring returns completed by Freedom of Information officers in government departments during February 2013. This is the latest set of quarterly Freedom of Information statistics to be published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the government department which now has lead responsibility for the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The first eight bulletins in this series were published by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

The formal monitoring work covers a total of 41 government bodies, including all major departments of state (i.e. Ministerial departments)⁸.

The monitored bodies which are not departments of state nonetheless have significant policymaking, regulatory or information-handling functions. As far as possible, this list includes major non-Ministerial Government Departments and excludes Executive Agencies. However, periodic “Machinery of Government” changes make it difficult to define the list precisely.

Coverage within the UK

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Office and the Wales Office are included in these statistics. However, we have not collected formal monitoring data from the National Assembly for Wales, or from the bodies that make up the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies in Scotland. This legislation lies outside the scope of the monitoring work on which this bulletin is based. However, the Scotland Office has been included here because, although it deals with matters relating to Scotland, it is based in England and hence falls under the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 rather than the corresponding Scottish legislation.

The following is a full list of the bodies covered by the monitoring statistics in the fourth quarter of 2012.

Departments of State

Attorney General’s Office
Cabinet Office
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

⁸ The Ministerial departments excluded from this publication are the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland, the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons and the Office of the Leader of the House of Lords.

Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Education
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for International Development
Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Department of Health
Export Credits Guarantee Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
HM Treasury
Home Office
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice
Northern Ireland Office
Scotland Office
Wales Office

Other monitored bodies

Charity Commission
Crown Prosecution Service
Debt Management Office
Food Standards Agency
Health and Safety Executive and Commission
HM Land Registry
HM Revenue and Customs
National Archives
National Savings and Investments
Office for National Statistics
Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)
Office of Fair Trading
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)
Office of Rail Regulation
Ordnance Survey
Royal Mint
Rural Payments Agency
Serious Fraud Office
Treasury Solicitor's Department
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)

Notes

1. The following departmental changes occurred between the beginning of January 2012 and the end of December 2012, the period covered by the in-year performance and volume tables in this bulletin.

Since April 2012, the **Central Office of Information** has closed and all functions have been transferred to the Cabinet Office, and so from Q2

2012 onwards figures for requests received previously by the Central Office of Information have been included within the Cabinet Office's statistics.

The **Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC)** was abolished in July 2012 and its functions have been transferred to the Department of Work and Pensions. From Q3 2012 onwards requests received previously by CMEC have been included within the Department for Work and Pensions' statistics. Its annual return reports just Q1 and 2.

2. The figures provided by a number of Departments of State count the non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. The departments and agencies affected are shown below.

Cabinet Office

Figures include requests received by the following:

Requests that were addressed to 10 Downing Street

Central Office of Information

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Met Office

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Quarters 1 and 2 included requests received by the Royal Parks Agency, but quarters 3 and 4 did not. This creates an inconsistency for the annual figures which are created by summing together the four individual quarters.

Department for Education

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Standards and Testing Agency (STA)

Education Funding Agency (EFA)

Teaching Agency (TA)

National College for School Leadership (NCSL)

Department for Transport

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Driving Standards Agency

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Government Cars Despatch Agency (from October 2012)

Highways Agency

Marine and Coastguard Agency

Vehicle Certification Agency
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Department for Work and Pensions

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Appeals Agency
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission
Disability and Carers' Service
Jobcentre plus
Pension Service
Rent Service

HM Treasury

Figures include requests received by the Office for Budget Responsibility.

Home Office

From 2006 onwards, figures include requests received by the Criminal Records Bureau, the Borders and Immigration Agency, and the UK Passport Service. The latter agency was absorbed within the Identity and Passport Service from 1 April 2006. Previously-supplied figures for the year 2005 only included requests received by the Home Office itself. From 1 April 2011 the National Fraud Authority was included in requests supplied by the Home Office.

Government Equalities Office

Ministry of Defence

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Defence Support Group (DSG),
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL)
UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO)

Ministry of Justice

Figures include requests received by HM Courts and Tribunals Service where they were referred to the department's Data Access and Compliance Unit.

Annex D: Explanatory notes

1. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

2. The statistics in this bulletin relate to the handling by central government bodies of information requests received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). They are collected and published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), with assistance from Freedom of Information officers across central government.
3. The FOI Act received Royal Assent on 30 November 2000. Under the Act, anybody may request information from a public authority which has functions in England, Wales and/or Northern Ireland. The Act confers two statutory rights on applicants:
 - To be told whether or not the public authority holds that information; and if so,
 - To have that information communicated to them.

These statutory rights came into force on 1 January 2005. The MoJ is the lead department responsible for the FOI Act. Further information is available at:

www.justice.gov.uk/information-access-rights/foi-guidance-for-practitioners

4. The (amended) EIRs also came into force on 1 January 2005, to coincide with the FOI Act. They clarify and extend previous rights to environmental information held by public authorities. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the lead department responsible for the EIRs. Further information is available from their website at:

archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/policy/opengov/eir/

5. These statistics are derived from monitoring returns submitted to MoJ in February 2013. They relate to information requests received during 2012 and in particular the period 1 October to 31 December 2012. The collection of monitoring data began on the 21st working day after the last day of this period (i.e. on 28 January 2013), since 20 working days is the statutory deadline for public authorities to respond to information requests under both the FOI Act and the EIRs.
6. Only “non-routine” information requests are counted in these statistics. Important notes on the scope and consistency of these statistics are given in **Annex B**.
7. These statistics cover a total of 41 central government bodies. At the commencement of the Act in January 2005 there were 43 bodies covered by the monitoring statistics, but the precise number can change from time to time due to “Machinery of Government” changes. A full list of the monitored bodies in Q4 2012 is shown in **Annex C**

Contacts

Press enquires on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act in a particular government body should be addressed to that body's Press Office.

Press enquiries on the contents of this bulletin should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

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Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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Ministry of Justice
7th Floor, 102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 5324
Email: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other queries about the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should be directed to:

Information Directorate
Ministry of Justice
6th Floor, 102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 3625
Email: informationrights@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from www.statistics.gov.uk

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statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk