

FOI Release
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Title: Patent applications, grants and national security patents

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Information request:

I am studying patent system of UK and want to understand the patent activities in UK. However, I am confused after having found some statistics related to the number of patent applied and granted. For example, one report said the number of Patents Applied for in the UK in 2009 was 15,985. On the contrary, another report wrote it had reached 30,285, if added the application for PCT and EP. I want to get the correct figure and update the number. Moreover, I notice there are also some secret inventions. According to a report, the IPO says it will now publish figures on patent secrecy annually, beginning in April 2011. Therefore, I am inquiring whether you can provide related data in respect of patent applied, patent granted and secret invention from 2000 to 2012.

Information released:

You can find figures for patent applications and grants within the UK in our Annual Reviews or Facts and Figures.

The earliest online figures [now located within the National Archives] date from 2002 (in the 2003-2004 report). You should find the figures of applications from UK based applicants to the UK Office in table 6 or 7 within each section on patents. Please see also the attached pages scanned from an earlier paper report showing figures from 2000 and 2001 (tables 2 and 3).

We don't publish information on PCT or EP applications but the PCT figures can be obtained from the WIPO website -

http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/freepublications/en/patents/901/wipo_pub_901_2013.pdf and the EPO figures can be obtained from the EPO website - <http://www.epo.org/about-us/annual-reports-statistics/annual-report/2012/statistics-trends/patent-filings.html#> .

There is a table showing the yearly figures of national security patents from 2000 to 2012 shown on table 8 (page 12) of the latest Facts and Figures.