

Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: Request for various statistics relating to criminal proceedings against directors of dormant companies

Date Released: 27 June 2016

Summary of request: The enquirer requested various statistics relating to criminal proceedings against directors of dormant companies

Information Released

You request information on:

How many times has CH issued a criminal record to directors of a dormant company?
How many times has CH issued criminal proceedings to directors of a dormant company?
How many times has CH convicted directors of a dormant company?

Companies House does not specifically record the information you require in the exact format you require and it cannot be easily extracted, the company type and whether it is trading or dormant is not recorded on the case file. Locating, retrieving and extracting the information requested would exceed the FOI time/cost threshold. For example, details of the criminal convictions are held by CH in paper files, hearing lists and an electronic system. These records are not connected as they are different processes, therefore, the information you have requested must be manually extracted from these various sources.

In light of the above I have refused your request under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Section 12 provides that a public authority is not obliged to comply with a request if the cost of complying with the request exceeds the "appropriate limit", which is £600, or 24 hours based on a cost of £25 per hour.

We do produce statistics on our website Gov.uk, if you have a look at section D2 of the spreadsheet the prosecution figures are produced, for example during 2014-15 there were 2,260 charges laid in court for failure to deliver annual report for the UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/companies-register-activities-statistical-release-20142015>

Whilst we are refusing to comply with your request under section 12 of FOIA, there is a duty upon us to provide advice and assistance under section 16 FOIA.

We cannot pre-empt which aspect of this information you would prefer to be provided within the cost limit. Therefore, you may wish to consider narrowing your request to enable us to provide some of the information to you. For example, some information maybe obtainable by giving a narrow timescale of your request but this cannot be guaranteed as it will depend on the number of cases within your chosen timeframe. If you would like to submit a further request, please let me know so I can advise a way forward.