

Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: Request for statistics on the costs relating to Late Filing Penalties summons and court action

Date Released: 11 December 2014

Summary of request: The enquirer requested statistics on the costs relating to Late Filing Penalties summons and court action

Information released

I have answered the questions in the order they appear in your request and the responses relate to the financial period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

1. The number of summons for non-payment of penalties or fees issued by solicitors acting for Companies House.

24,860

2. The number of such summons which proceeded to court in (i) Harrogate, or (ii) elsewhere.

(i) 0, (ii) 24,860

3. The number of court judgements in favour of Companies House in that same period, in (i) Harrogate, and (ii) elsewhere.

(i) 0, (ii) 17,209

4. The total amount of penalties or fees involved.

£19,361,880.00* of penalties

* Legal claims are sometimes made for less than the full penalty amount, e.g. where a partial payment has been received. The total value of claims is therefore less than this figure at £17,689,086.

5. The total amount of costs charged to defendants.

The costs charged to defendants are £3.3m. This includes £1.9m of legal fees paid to solicitors, as outlined in Q6 below. I should point out that having provided a figure for costs charged to defendants (£3.3m), Companies House would not recoup this entire amount.

6. The total amount of legal fees paid to the solicitors.

The amount of solicitors' fees is £1.9m.

I should explain that Companies House operates as a Trading Fund and as such must operate on a cost recovery basis. This principle applies to the services that Companies

House provides but it does not include the Late Filing Penalty Regime. Late filing penalties do not form part of the Trading Fund income of Companies House and all the revenue collected from the late filing penalty regime is passed directly to HM Treasury. With regard to the payment for the court costs, the money collected is transferred to Companies House to use in the further pursuit of companies via the courts.