

FOI performance - our performance in responding to FOI requests

The Department of Health strives to follow best practice and meet our legal responsibilities in responding to FOI requests.

Initial requests – must be responded to in 20 working days from receipt of request, although an extension is permitted where further consideration of the public interest is required. Good practice from the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) is that this extension should be no more than an additional 20 working days.

Internal review requests – although there is no statutory legal deadline, the ICO recommend that cases are dealt with in 20 working days from receipt of request. This can be extended in exceptional circumstances, and the ICO consider that no internal reviews should take longer than 40 working days.

Below are details of our performance in the handling of both initial FOI requests and internal review requests.

Initial requests

2013	No of cases received	No of cases answered on time (or within permitted extension)	Percentage answered on time (or within permitted extension)
April	199	199	100%
March	210	210	100%
February	194	194	100%
January	175	175	100%

2012	No of cases received	No of cases answered on time (or within permitted extension)	Percentage answered on time (or within permitted extension)
December	136	136	100%
November	177	177	100%
October	172	172	100%
September	137	137	100%
August	143	143	100%
July	157	157	100%
June	107	107	100%
May	136	136	100%
April	170	170	100%
March	225	225	100%

February	672	672	100%
January	180	180	100%

2011	No of cases received	No of cases answered on time (or within permitted extension)	Percentage answered on time (or within permitted extension)
December	108	108	100%
November	200	200	100%
October	160	160	100%
September	154	154	100%
August	151	151	100%
July	167	167	100%
June	153	153	100%
May	125	125	100%
April	132	131	99.2%
March	208	208	100%
February	168	168	100%
January	240	240	100%

Internal review cases – performance statistics from 2011 onwards

From January 2011 to date (these statistics are updated at the end of each month to reflect cumulative performance from January 2011 to date).

Current position as at 26 June 2013

2013 cases

No of cases received	No closed	No open
42	35	7

Of those closed cases

No answered in 10 days or less	No answered in 11-20 days	No answered in 21-40 days	No answered in 41-60 days	No answered in more than 60 days
-	28	7	-	-

2012 cases

No of cases received	No closed	No open
116	116	0

Of those closed cases

No answered in 10 days or less	No answered in 11-20 days	No answered in 21-40 days	No answered in 41-60 days	No answered in more than 60 days
10	92	12	1	1

2011 cases

No of cases received	No closed	No open
114	114	0

Of those closed cases

No answered in 10 days or less	No answered in 11-20 days	No answered in 21-40 days	No answered in 41-60 days	No answered in more than 60 days
25	47	39	3	0

For earlier DH FOI performance statistics please see the following page:

[DH FOI performance statistics from 2006 to 2010 \(opens new window\)](#)

Further detailed statistics concerning FOI performance in our Department and across other central government bodies are regularly collated and published by the Ministry of Justice and can be found on their website:

[Ministry of Justice website: Freedom of Information Act 2000: Statistics on implementation in central government \(opens new window\)](#)