



Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: Statistics on the number of accounts or annual returns sent to Companies House but not received

Date Released: 11 March 2014

Summary of request: The enquirer requested statistics on the number of accounts or annual returns sent to Companies House but not received

Information released

In your letter you asked *"how many companies you fine that claim to have submitted their Returns either accounts or Annual Returns but are fined for not doing so."* I cannot provide statistics on how many companies are penalised because accounts have gone missing or been delayed in transit but the following statistics show the number of limited companies and limited liability partnerships who have appealed against penalties for that reason.

These figures cover the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013:

Missing accounts	887
Postal delay	1297

I must point out that we categorise all appeals at the beginning of the process and if a company appeals on a number of grounds, it is categorised under the first category claimed. It is also possible that during the course of the appeal, the company may choose to change the reason or emphasis of their appeal but we do not change the statistics to reflect this because they were only ever intended as a management tool and not for any other reason.

The accuracy of the statistics within each category cannot therefore be guaranteed as being relevant to that particular reason for appeal. I should also point out that there is no correlation between the statistics published on our website and the ones that we have now provided for you. This is mainly because the appeal process can take months to complete.

You may also be interested to see our Late Filing Penalty statistics which are routinely published on our website. These can be accessed via the following link.
<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/lateFilingPenaltiesStatistics.shtml>