

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Royalties paid to UK companies, support for UK SMEs, UK Government income from the granting of patents, etc.

Date of release: 28 May 2013

Information request:

1. In answer to a recent FOI question the UKIPO stated that royalties paid to innovative companies on a worldwide basis amounted to £600Bn per year. Of this total what amount was paid to (a) UK business as a whole and (b) UK SMEs? For each year since 2000.
2. Of total UK GDP what percentage or amount is estimated to come from the manufacture of UK patented products by (a) business as a whole and (b) UK SMEs? For each year since 2000.
3. What have been the total amounts provided for R&D of innovative projects by way of grants and other assistance (by both the UK Government and the EU) to (a) UK business as a whole and (b) UK SMEs? For each year since 2000.
4. What is the total spent by innovative UK SMEs by way of match funding linked to R&D grants for innovative projects which lead to the granting of a patent to SMEs? For each year since 2000.
5. What is the total annual income to the UK Government via the UKIPO for (a) the processing and granting of patents to SMEs and (b) all patent renewals to SMEs. For each year since 2000.

Information released:

I am writing to advise you that the information you requested is not held by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO).

With regard to your first and second questions, we are not aware of any other Department that may hold this information, which would be very expensive to collect. Furthermore, business confidentiality issues could potentially be a barrier to collecting the data you ask for in your second question. I should explain that the £600Bn per year you quote is World Bank data.

Agencies within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills may be better placed to answer your third and fourth questions, possibly the Research Councils UK (RCUK) or the Technology Strategy Board (TSB).

With regard to your fifth question, the IPO is not required by legislation to record the type of applicant and consequently does not hold information on patents owned or renewed specifically by SMEs. Our database does not record whether applicants are private individuals or categorize them in any way by company size, so the information you ask for on fees income from SMEs is unobtainable.