

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Trade mark searching

Date of release: 23 May 2013

Information request:

1. Does the IPO release details of its application programming interface (“API”) to enable third parties to utilise trade mark search functionality on their own websites or through applications on mobile devices, such as phones and tablets?
2. If the answer to point 1 is yes, please set out the steps a third party would need to undertake to gain access to the API and any conditions of use.
3. If the answer to point 1 is no, please set out any reasons for the decision not to release the API; whether the decision is kept under review (and if so, how often) and whether this is likely to change in light of the Government’s Open Data White Paper.

Information released:

In reply to your first question, the IPO does not release details of its API.

With regard to your third question, the API is not released as IPO currently sells trade mark data to third parties. As a Trading Fund Agency, the IPO is obliged to make a return on capital and the applicable regulations permit the sale information. Because this information is readily available by other means, it is exempt under s.21 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.