

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Statistics of two categories of patent applications

Date of release: 9 April 2013

Information request

Figures/statistics relating to (1) the number of patents filed for new chemical entities and (2) the number of patents filed for second medical use.

I would like to be able to determine whether there has been an increase or a decrease in either category in the past two years, so I would be grateful if you could collate the figures for 2011 and 2012.

Information released

With regard to your first question, there appear to be 32 GB applications with a primary classification relating to the number of patents filed for new chemical entities in 2011, compared with 25 such applications filed in 2012.

This is an overall reduction, but it does not appear to be statistically significant given the small numbers of patents involved.

I regret that we are unable to answer your second question, regarding the number of patents filed for second medical use, because the only way of gathering that information would involve the checking of every single claim concerned, which would not be possible within the cost limit applicable to FOI requests.