

**FOI Release**  
**Information released under the Freedom of Information Act**

**Title:** Statistical patent information

**Date of release:** 24 July 2013

**Information request:**

As part of our business plan it would be helpful to find out how many individuals applied for patents as opposed to corporate filings in the past five years.

My research so far has highlighted that collectively 2,140,000 patents were applied for worldwide last year, 576 of these being UK applications. Statistics seem to vary but it seems conclusive across many research portals that the UK is now some way down the pecking order regarding the number of applications filed from 2007 -2013 and that Japan, Germany and China are leaders in this field. with China having filing 1 million applications in 2012

Any additional data, written or in graph form you can provide, relating to this subject would be hugely appreciated.

**Information released:**

We don't record private applicants as such, just represented as opposed to unrepresented applicants, i.e. we record whether an applicant has filed an address for service.

Generally speaking, the majority of private applicants are not represented by a patent attorney and most corporate ones are, though some of our larger customers employ in-house attorneys so may appear to be 'unrepresented'.

Allowing for the fact that we cannot answer your question exactly, the attached table for the last five financial years showing total applications and 'private applicants' (PAs) should give you an approximate indication of the relative proportions of private and corporate applicants.

These are applications filed directly to the UK Office and the figures do not include filings made through the European Patent Office.

	<b>2008/9</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
<b>Patent Applications</b>	23,214	22,460	21,924	22,328	22,818
<b>PA's</b>	6,100	6,211	6,110	5,958	5,974