

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Transfer of IP ownership

Date of release: 3 May 2013

Information request:

Please could you tell me what ownership of patents has been transferred from one owner to another by year over the last 5 years.

Information released:

The numbers of patent assignments (transfers of ownership) recorded over the last five calendar years are as follows:

2008 - 8653
2009 - 9662
2010 - 7267
2011 - 10528
2012 - 10727

The total for Jan-April 2013 will not be available until next Jan when the reports are run again. The total number of assignments for 2008-2012 is 46,837. You will need to bear in mind that this figure does not take into account human error (e.g. if a proprietor registered an assignment by a free text entry this would not be counted).

You are also reminded that recording of assignments is not mandatory and we have no idea how many assignments take place without the proprietors notifying us.