

We were asked:

Q. From the date that the FOI Act came into force, please supply a list of all FOI requests made to your department. Please include:

- date of request
- date of reply
- reference number/ID
- subject/title of the request (each request on the list should include the subject/title of the request please)
- status (whether information was fully released, partially released or withheld)
- Whether the information was release following an internal review
- Whether the information was released following an ICO ruling

We replied:

A. I can confirm that the Department holds information falling within the scope of your request but is declining to answer under Section 12 (1) of the FOIA.

The Wales Office uses an Electronic Document and Records Management (EDRM) System to log and record information relating to individual Freedom of Information requests. Each request is assigned an individual folder that holds specific case details, such as the information you have requested above. To provide the information you require relating to individual requests dating back to 2005, I would be required to manually inspect each individual folder in order to identify, extract and collate the specific information centrally. The task of collating this information would exceed the £600 cost limit outlined within section 12(1) of the FOIA

The law allows us to decline to answer requests under FOIA when we estimate that it would cost us more than £600 to identify, locate, and extract the information that has been asked for. The appropriate cost limit is equivalent to 3½ working days' worth of work, calculated at £25 per hour. Consequently, the department is not obliged to comply with your request under section 12(1) the FOIA

You may wish to refine the scope of your request to bring it within the appropriate limit. You may wish to narrow the timeframe of your request or reduce the level of information you have requested. However, you should be aware that any refined request may still exceed the appropriate cost limit.

Outside the scope of the FOIA, you may be interested to know that that the Ministry of Justice publish statistics on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act across central Government. These statistics offer a breakdown of information relating to requests received by individual public authorities and provide details such as outcomes of decisions. I have provided the following link to these publications:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-foi-statistics>