

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

**Title:** Patent filing and patents granted to sole inventors

**Date of release:** 9 September 2013

**Information request:**

The number of patent applications received by the IPO and the percentage eventually granted. Of these, what percentage are sole inventors? Are applications of military interest sent for security assessment?

**Information released:**

We publish figures for applications filed, published and granted annually in our Facts & Figures, available on our website.

If you look at Table 6 on page 12 for the year 2013 you will find the figures by applicant country of residence, including a figure for the UK and a worldwide total.

You will notice that less than half the patents filed reached first publication stage. There are a number of reasons for this; for example, sometimes applications are filed just to obtain a date upon which to base a European Patent application. Sometimes following the result of a search an applicant may re-file a revised patent and not proceed with the original application.

We do not record types of applicant e.g. corporations, private individuals, academic institutions etc. We do however distinguish between 'unrepresented' and 'represented applicants', the latter group having entered an address for service on the application form. As a general rule private applicants are not usually represented by a patent agent and corporate applicants usually are, which gives a rough indication of the split between corporate/private applicants.

Currently about 26% of all applications filed come from unrepresented applicants. Of all the applications we grant about 5% are granted to unrepresented applicants.

You also asked about security assessment. Please note that the Intellectual Property Office checks every application filed to identify whether it contains information which, if published, would be prejudicial to national security or the safety of the public.

You can find more information and guidance on this subject on our website at:  
<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/patent/p-applying/p-after/p-security.htm> .