

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Registered designs statistics

Date of release: 22 July 2014

Information request:

I've seen in the latest IPO stats that there is quite a difference between the number of design applications filed and the number of designs registered both in 2012 and 2013.

There were 4996 filed and 3797 registered in 2012 and 5114 filed and 4329 registered in 2013.

Can you let me know why so many were rejected please?

May I also ask about the extraordinary jump in applications registered in the East Midlands from 2012-2013 - a 1019% increase.

Information released:

In relation to the difference between applications and registrations, there are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, a big part of the reason would be that applicants can ask for deferred publication. Publication can be deferred for up to 12 months and some don't go through at all because the applicant doesn't ask for publication in that time frame.

The second reason would be that we do conduct an examination and reject applications if they do not comply with our requirements. This could be because of the quality of the images or because they fall foul of other parts of the Registered Designs Act 1949. The reasons for objection are: technical function/must fit-must match, morality, protected emblems and the application is for an idea and not the appearance of a product.

You can find out more about the criteria for design registration from our website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/register-a-design> .

With respect to the registration figures for applications from the East Midlands, the figures we have published for 2012 and 2013 show an increase from 160 to 166. (From Facts & Figures <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/facts-and-figures> page 37.)