

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Research into technological development.

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Information request:

I am trying to get a feeling of whether the rate of Technological Development is increasing. Would it be possible to have some data regarding how many patents have been filed for per year, over say the last fifteen years? Also, is there any information you have regarding the time between filing for a patent and a product going on the market?

Information released:

I attach a table showing figures for patent filings here at the Intellectual Property Office each year from 2000 to 2015. I have given figures both for filings from within the UK and from anywhere worldwide.

You will notice that the filing rate has been gradually declining over that period. I wouldn't like to suggest an explanation beyond the observation that filings to the European Patent Office have been increasing over the same period, so it may be that an increasing number of applicants have been choosing that alternative patenting route to obtain wider geographical cover. You would have to check the EPO stats to confirm.

I regret that we don't have any information regarding commercial success of patents, or any figures regarding the percentage of patents that are eventually exploited commercially over time. You may be interested to know however that in recent years only 20% to 25% of patents that reach first publication stage are eventually granted, though it is difficult to be more exact because of the long time it can take for each patent to reach grant – typically 4 years or more.

All the figures are taken from our annual published Facts & Figures. The first couple of years are from paper publications; the remainder can be found at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/tna/20140603093547/http://www.ipo.gov.uk/about/whatwedo/ourpublications/ourpublications-review.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/facts-and-figures>

and: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/facts-and-figures-patent-trade-mark-design-and-hearing-data-2015>

Year	Patents filed from within the UK	Patents filed from all countries (including UK)
2000	21,580	31,412
2001	20,935	30,576
2002	20,196	29,911
2003	20,064	29,835
2004	18,816	28,225
2005	17,488	26,192
2006	17,484	25,745
2007	17,375	24,999
2008	16,523	23,379
2009	15,985	22,465
2010	15,194	21,929
2011	15,343	22,259
2012	15,370	23,235
2013	14,972	22,938
2014	15,187	23,040
2015	14,870	22,801