

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

**Title:** Patent maintenance statistics

**Date of release:** 14 May 2014

**Information request:**

Statistics (in form of a spreadsheet and/or graphical representation) regarding the year by year payment and non-payment of maintenance fees for UK and EP (UK) patents. This data would be similar to the contents of the table in Section 9 "Number of Patent Renewal Fees Paid by IPO Patents and EPO Patents (designated UK) ('000)" of the 'Facts and Figures for 2011-2012' publication but where absolute numbers of renewals are replaced with the percentage of cases up for renewal where the renewal fee was actually paid. Thus we might see that in 2012 for the 6th year, maintenance fees were paid for 80% of UK and 75% of EP (UK) patents. It would be useful to have these figures for, say, the last five years if available.

If possible we would be further interested to break these figures down by country of patent proprietor, particularly regarding patent proprietors from the US, UK, Japan, Germany, China. In other words, we would like to see if different national proprietors have different maintenance strategies.

**Information released:**

Please find attached the analysis you requested. It shows the number of GB patents, by year of annuity, both maintained and not maintained for each of the requested years, however it does not show a breakdown by country of proprietor. We are unable to provide that for you under the terms of the FOI Act as the effort required would cost us in excess of the appropriate cost limit. Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information. We estimate that it will take us in excess of 3.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract to provide the additional country of proprietor detail. You may be able to do this for yourselves using the information available within the dataset now available on our website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ipo-patent-data> .

Annuity year	2008 Maintained	2008 not maintained	2008 could have been maintained	2009 Maintained	2009 not maintained	2009 could have been maintained	2010 Maintained	2010 not maintained	2010 could have been maintained	2011 Maintained	2011 not maintained	2011 could have been maintained
5	6663	580	7243	6255	407	6662	5867	274	6141	5646	295	5941
6	6405	749	7154	6071	592	6663	5865	390	6255	5506	361	5867
7	5872	659	6531	5856	549	6405	5632	439	6071	5488	377	5865
8	5461	676	6137	5388	484	5872	5438	418	5856	5230	402	5632
9	4876	628	5504	4972	489	5461	4965	423	5388	5035	403	5438
10	4373	599	4972	4323	553	4876	4563	409	4972	4565	400	4965
11	3853	546	4399	3881	492	4373	3982	341	4323	4194	369	4563
12	3685	619	4304	3444	409	3853	3522	359	3881	3673	309	3982
13	3152	551	3703	3248	437	3685	3129	315	3444	3168	354	3522
14	2575	392	2967	2741	411	3152	2959	289	3248	2832	297	3129
15	2112	355	2467	2213	362	2575	2438	303	2741	2713	246	2959
16	1715	348	2063	1834	278	2112	1988	225	2213	2193	245	2438
17	1584	375	1959	1445	270	1715	1589	245	1834	1744	244	1988
18	1250	350	1600	1286	298	1584	1202	243	1445	1349	240	1589
19	937	348	1285	961	289	1250	1008	278	1286	973	229	1202
20	0	1094	1094	0	937	937	0	961	961	0	1008	1008
			63382			61175			60059			60088