

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Complaints to Secretary of State under s.296ZE under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

Date of release: 15 August 2014

Information request:

I am writing in connection with the current process of issuing a notice of complaint to the Secretary of State regarding overly restrictive technological measures, set out in s296ZE of the CDPA 1988.

I would be grateful if you could supply me with the following information:

- 1) How many complaints have been received
- 2) How many complaints have been upheld
- 3) The precise nature of which complaints have and have not been upheld
- 4) If possible, the years in which the above complaints took place.

Information released:

- 1) The Regulations on s296ZE came into force on 31 October 2003. Nine Notices of Complaint have been issued to the Secretary of State since that time.
- 2) All of the notices of complaint were in respect of computer programs so none qualified for consideration by the Secretary of State under s296ZE.
- 3) Because all of the notices of complaint were in respect of computer programs, none were upheld as they did not qualify for consideration by the Secretary of State under s296ZE.
- 4) We are unable to provide a breakdown of the number of notices per year, because we estimate that the effort required in extracting that information from our records would cost in excess of the appropriate limit for FOI requests.