

## **Information Released under Freedom of Information Act**

**Subject:** Request for statistics relating to Late Filing Penalties

**Date Released:** 11 June 2015

**Summary of request:** The enquirer requested statistics relating to Late Filing Penalties

### **Information Released**

You asked the following questions which you confirmed concerned automatic civil late filing penalties issued against companies in relation to annual accounts (not annual returns).

Companies House routinely publishes statistical information concerning late filing penalties on our website in our Companies Register Activities Report

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/380782/Copy\\_of\\_CompaniesRegisterActivities2013-2014.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380782/Copy_of_CompaniesRegisterActivities2013-2014.xls)

Previous years reports can be found on The National Archives Website

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20141104103730/http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/about/businessRegisterStat.shtml>

The Trust Statement in our Annual Report and Accounts includes various information concerning late filing penalties

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/343218/AnnualReportFull2013\\_14.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343218/AnnualReportFull2013_14.pdf)

**1) What was the total amount of late fees taken by Companies House in 2014 and 2013 for businesses missing the deadline for filing accounts?**

This number and value of penalties issued can be found in Table A8 of the Companies Register Activities Report and also in the Trust Statement of our Annual Report and Accounts.

Please note that penalties 'issued' may not always be paid, further monthly statistics which show the number of penalties not collected can be found via the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/late-filing-penalty-statistics-2015-2016>

**2) Of those fees charged to businesses, how many fell under each of the following timings in both 2013 and 2014? Less than 1 month late**

**1 - 3 months late**

**3-6 months late**

**6+ months late**

Please see Table A8 of the Companies Register Activities Report

**3) Of those businesses charged late fees, how many were dormant companies and what amount of the fees were charged to dormant companies?**

The information that you require is not routinely collated. Late filing penalties are imposed on all companies that file accounts late regardless of the size or trading status of the company. We do not make any correlation between accounts that are delivered late and the type of accounts that have been delivered.

**4) What was money taken from Companies House for late filing fees in 2013 and 2014 spent on?**

Companies House operates as a Trading Fund and as such must operate on a cost recovery basis. This principle applies to the services that Companies House provides but it does not include the Late Filing Penalty Regime. Late Filing Penalties do not form part of the Trading Fund income of Companies House and all the revenue collected from the regime is passed directly to HM Treasury. The penalties collected are paid into HM Treasury's Consolidated Fund.

5) How much money was paid to the dept collection agencies that collect late fees from businesses on behalf of companies house in 2013 and 2014?

Companies House publishes this information on our website under Transparency Data - in our current contracts list and in our Purchase Ledger Spend, I have provided the links below.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/379688/CH\\_Contract\\_List\\_FOI\\_Oct\\_2014\\_Definitive\\_Version\\_ver1\\_1-ver0.5.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/379688/CH_Contract_List_FOI_Oct_2014_Definitive_Version_ver1_1-ver0.5.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/companies-house-purchase-ledger-spend-2014>