

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Beauty and personal care patents originating in the UK

Date of release: 23 April 2015

Information request:

The number of BPC patents of UK origin, for the years 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009.

Information released:

We are only able to provide information relating to GB patents.

For background information, when patent applications are filed, they cannot proceed until a search request form and associated fee are received, following which they are searched and A-published (usually 18 months from filing or priority date, whichever is earlier). The A-pub document makes the patent disclosure publicly available and is accompanied by a search report listing prior art considered to be relevant to the disclosed invention. Following filing of an examination request and associated fee, the application is examined and may be amended by the applicant. If, or once, the application complies with all requirements of the Patents Act at exam stage, it is sent on for grant and B-published, at which time the applicant obtains an enforceable patent.

Patent applications do not have a classification applied until they are ready for A-publication, usually at the time of search. Thus it is not possible to list all patent applications in a particular field of technology at the time of application since, at this stage, they do not carry a formal classification. Only those applications which get published can be identified. We have therefore listed details of A-published GB patent applications and granted, B-published GB patent applications, by year of publication, for the requested years (and have provided the number of these with a British applicant since GB applications can also be filed by non-GB applicants).

Beauty and Personal Care patents have been identified on the basis of their classification in beauty product IPC/CPC marks A61K8/00* and A61Q.

Year	Number A-published	With GB Applicant	Number B-Published (i.e. granted)	With GB Applicant
2009	44	25	24	6
2010	44	23	15	9
2011	35	17	21	11
2012	38	25	25	13
2013	43	30	13	4
2014	31	18	20	12