



Ministry
of Justice



Freedom of Information Statistics: Implementation in Central Government

**2014 Annual
and
October - December 2014**

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

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Introduction

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and the associated Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) came fully into force on 1 January 2005. This bulletin presents statistics on their implementation within the central government monitored bodies for the quarterly period October to December (Q4) 2014 and the 2014 calendar year.

The previous quarterly and annual bulletins, together covering the period from January 2005 to September 2014, are available via the links on the following pages of the Gov.uk website:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-foi-statistics

The statistics in this bulletin relate to the handling of written requests for information received by monitored bodies during the relevant time period. **They cover only non-routine – i.e. FOI or EIR - information requests.** Information given out on request as a part of routine business should not be counted unless it is a request for information that is not already reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means. Annex B gives a complete definition of a non-routine request, and other information on the scope of these statistics. The number of ‘routine’ information requests is not known. Figures in this publication should be considered a lower bound for all information requests received by the monitored bodies.

This bulletin presents monitoring statistics for a total of 41 central government bodies, which includes all major departments of state. Annex C gives a full list of monitored bodies¹. Over 100,000 bodies are subject to the FOI Act² and a substantial number of FOI requests are sent to those which are non-monitored. The trends which apply to monitored central government bodies cannot be assumed to apply universally.

More information regarding EIRs is available via the link below.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-foiaeirs

Departmental name changes

Please refer to Annex C for details of departmental name changes that have occurred since Q1 2014.

Corrections and Revisions

Departments review the figures provided in the first three quarters throughout the year and make internal revisions to the published statistics. In order to account for these, departments produce an annual report at the end of each monitoring period which is used for this publication. As a result, the quarter to quarter statistics will not always sum to the annual figures. Where departments have made revisions to quarterly figures, it is denoted in the statistical tables.

¹ The statistics reflect the management and implementation of the FOI Act by each monitored body and comparisons between departments can be made on this basis. There could be a degree of inconsistency in the way in which bodies have interpreted and applied the definition of an “information request” for monitoring purposes – please see Annex B for further information.

²Freedom of Information Briefing Paper - www.parliament.uk/briefing-papers/sn02950.pdf

Key Findings

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows individuals to request information from public bodies. This bulletin presents statistics for its use in 41 central government bodies. This comprises of 21 Departments of State and 20 'other monitored bodies', in the annual period and fourth quarter of 2014.

Number of FOI and EIR requests [see Tables 1 - 3]

In 2014 monitored central government bodies received a total of 46,806 requests. This is a 9.5% decrease on the number received in 2013 and represents the first annual decrease in requests since 2007. 10,749 requests were received in October-December (Q4), which amounts to 1,391 fewer requests than Q4 in 2013.

The number of FOI (Freedom of Information) and EIR (Environmental Information Regulations) requests recorded by monitored bodies had shown an increasing trend from 2006 to 2013 – an average increase of 6% per year. This follows an initial spike in 2005 when the FOI Act was first introduced.

Timeliness of response to requests [see Tables 4, 5]

During 2014, 91% of requests either received a response within the statutory deadline of 20 days or were subject to a permitted deadline extension. This is unchanged from 2013. The range for all monitored bodies was between 76 and 100% timeliness. In Q4, 90% of requests received a response in time, with the range being between 58 and 100%.

Initial outcomes of non routine requests [see Tables 6 - 9]

Of all requests received during 2014 where it was possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the information being sought, 50% were granted in full. In Q4, 47% were granted in full. The proportion of requests granted in full has generally followed a downward trend since 2005.

Exemptions and exceptions [see Table 10]

In 2014, one or more exemption or exception was applied to 11,430 requests, which is equal to 24% of total FOIs submitted. Compared to 2013 (when an exemption or exception was applied to 11,419 requests), there has been almost no change in the number of exemptions and exceptions made by monitored bodies, however as a proportion of total requests the value has increased from 22%. The most common exemption for all monitored bodies, as in previous years, was section 40 (personal data).

Section 21 [see Tables 11, 12]

In 2014, there were 2,443 Section 21 exemptions used (where a Section 21 was the only exemption used in a response). The majority (2,056) recorded whether the request was fully or partially exempt - of these 2,056 requests, 79% were fully exempted. Nine out of ten (92%) of all Section 21 responses were provided within the 20-day deadline. In Q4 2014, there were 557 Section 21 exemptions used. This is an increase of 10 requests from Q3.

Public Interest Tests, Internal Reviews and appeals *[see Tables 13 - 18]*

A total of 2,615 Internal Reviews were requested in 2014, on the grounds that some or all of the information originally requested was withheld. This represented 5.6% of total requests and is consistent with the rising trend in the proportion of requests reviewed, which stood at 2.6 percent in 2007.

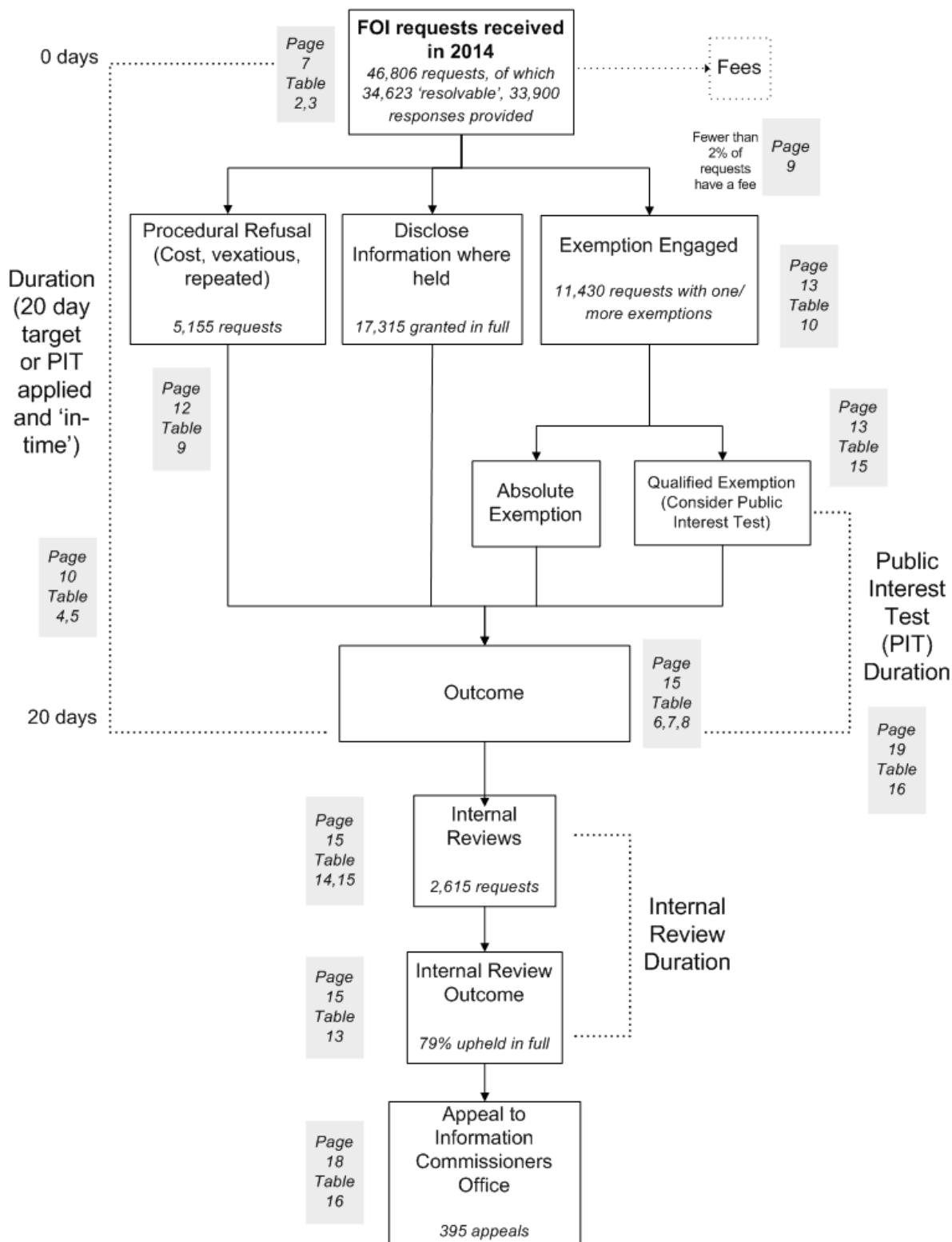
Of the 2,615 Internal Reviews requested in 2014 and completed by the time the statistics were collected, 79% upheld the initial handling in full, an increase of 3 percentage points compared with 2013. 62% with known outcomes took 20 working days or fewer to complete.

There were 395 appeals made to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in 2014, relating to the refusal of information requests by monitored bodies following an Internal Review. This represents around 15% of the number of Internal Reviews received by all monitored bodies, and approximately 0.8% of all requests over this period.

In 2014, there were 1,806 requests received by monitored bodies where a statutory Public Interest Test extension was applied to the response deadline and processed in full. Of these, 55% were completed within 20 working days.

Freedom of Information Process Map

The process map shown in Chart 1 provides information on the set of data collected from monitored bodies and where they are placed in this publication.



Analysis and Commentary

1. Number of requests [see Tables 1, 2, 3]

In 2014, monitored central government bodies received a total of 46,806 “non-routine” information requests under the FOIA and the associated EIRs. This represents a fall of 9.5% on the 51,696 requests received in 2013, driven primarily by a fall in volumes of requests to Departments of State.

- Departments of State received 30,991 of these requests, a decrease of 12% compared to 2013.
- Other monitored bodies received the remaining 15,815 requests, which is 4% fewer than in 2013.

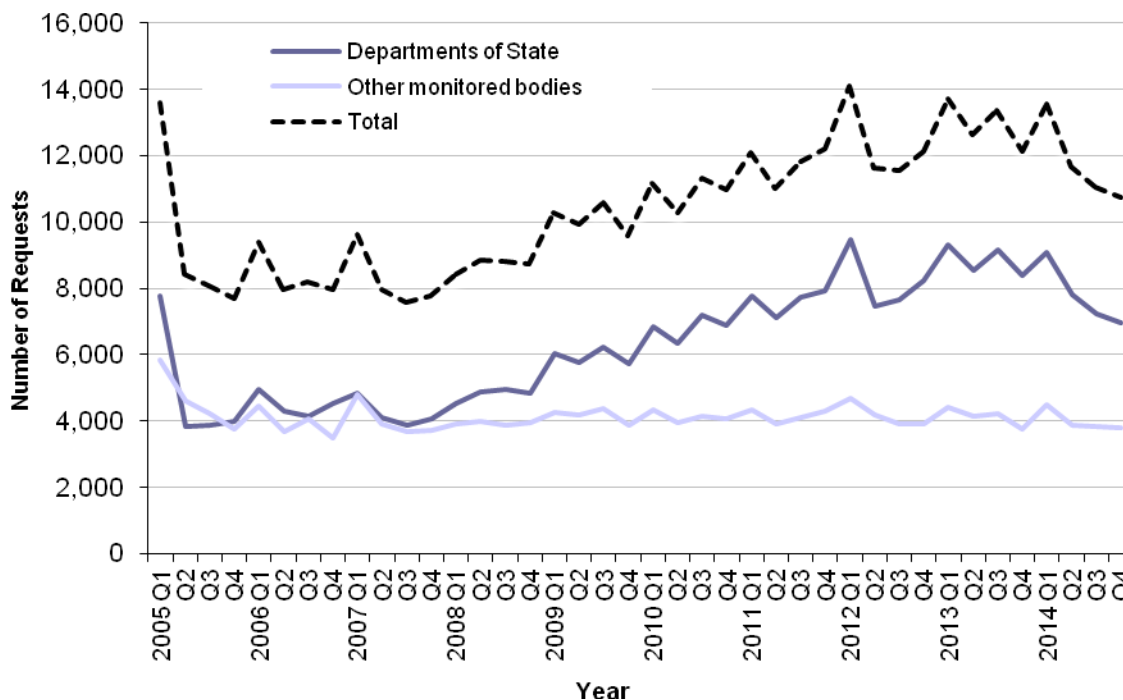
During the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2014, the monitored central government bodies received a total of 10,749 requests. Of these, Departments of State received 6,973 requests and the other monitored bodies received the remaining 3,776 requests.

This overall total for Q4 of 2014 is 11% fewer requests than in the corresponding quarter in the previous year and also represents a decrease of 3% in comparison to the preceding quarter (Q3 2014).

The wider trend of rising numbers of FOI requests has been reversed in the last three quarters (Q2-Q4 2014). This is driven in part by:

- A fall after peaks in 2013 linked to various reforms to the way that data is released, such as:
 - Emendation to personal injury law in the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 has reduced the scope for requests to the Health and Safety Executive from solicitors, and may have caused a reduction in FOI requests.
 - Handling of requests for CCTV footage through a separate system handled by Highways England as opposed to the FOIA.
- A return to “expected” levels after an increase in interest related to various reforms in 2013.
- An increase in the amount of data proactively published by government departments;
- The availability of previously made FOI request archives online; and
- An increased public awareness of what information is held by various departments.

Figure 1: Number of FOI/EIR requests received since the Act's introduction in January 2005



The initial surge in requests when the Act was introduced in 2005 was driven partly by the inclusion at that time of routine as well as non-routine requests. For example, some bodies included in their statistics simple phone call requests for pre-existing information.

By monitored body

The four monitored bodies whose absolute volume of FOI requests have fallen the most between 2013 and 2014³ are:

- HM Treasury, by 1,189 requests (a 45% decrease)
- Department for Work and Pensions, by 933 requests (a 17% decrease)
- Department for Transport, by 876 (a 24% decrease)
- Health and Safety Executive, by 715 (a 12% decrease)

The Ministry of Justice reported the largest rise in requests (by 160, a 4% increase). One possible reason for this could be the public interest in high profile reforms, including those to legal aid, court fees and the probation service.

Despite the fall from 2013 in total number of requests received, the Department for Work and Pensions reported having received the highest number of requests during 2014 of all

³ Based on end-of-year (Q4/Annual) statistical releases only. Quarterly statistics may not sum to end-of-year statistics due to post-release amendments and corrections.

Departments of State – a total of 4,667. The following departments also received more than 3,000 requests during the year:

- Ministry of Justice – 4,441
- Ministry of Defence – 3,482

Despite the drop in requests to the Health and Safety Executive, among other monitored bodies, they reported receiving the highest number of requests during 2014 (5,052), while the National Archives received 3,236 and HM Revenue and Customs received 2,262. The HSE is the only monitored body to have received more than 1,000 requests during each quarter since the Act was implemented. This is partly due to the nature of requests it receives: a large percentage are from solicitors representing an injured party, seeking disclosure of information collected during an investigation of a workplace incident. These three bodies together accounted for around 67% of all requests received by all the other monitored bodies in 2014. Therefore the trends for the other monitored bodies group as a whole are heavily dependent on the trends for these three particular bodies.

The FOI Act applies to over 100,000 public bodies⁴, including all local authorities and schools. The requests made to the 41 monitored bodies covered in this bulletin represent an unknown fraction of the total volume of FOI requests made.

Environmental Information Regulations

Monitoring statistics also show the number of requests that fell fully or mostly under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs). There were 1,884 such requests during 2014 (a small increase from the 1,879 received in 2013), and 382 during Q4 of 2014. In both periods, these totals accounted for 4% of all requests received by monitored bodies.

Of monitored bodies receiving requests falling under the EIRs, the HSE, the Rural Payments Agency, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Energy and Climate Change received the most (over 250 requests each). Between them they received 74% of requests which fall under the EIRs.

Use of fees

Section 9 of the FOI Act makes provision for public authorities to charge a fee for providing information requested under the Act. Authorities can charge a fee both for those requests that fall outside the 'appropriate cost limit' (£600 for central government, £450 for other public authorities) and for certain disbursements that are incurred when handling a request.

Of the 46,806 requests received by monitored bodies during the year, 624 (1.3%) were subject to a fee being levied by the authority involved. Almost all (621) of these requests were made to the National Archives (TNA), who routinely charge fees for FOI/EIR work (under a separate fees regime) under section 19 of the FOI Act. TNA levied a fee in 20% of resolvable cases in 2014, accounting for over 99% of all fee charged requests in 2014, and 97% of all the fee monies

⁴www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmhansrd/vo060725/text/60725w0081.htm#06072811011026

received. The fee was not paid in 34% of all cases. The total amount received by monitored bodies for answering FOI / EIR requests during 2014 was £40,317.

2. Timeliness of response to requests [see Tables 4, 5]

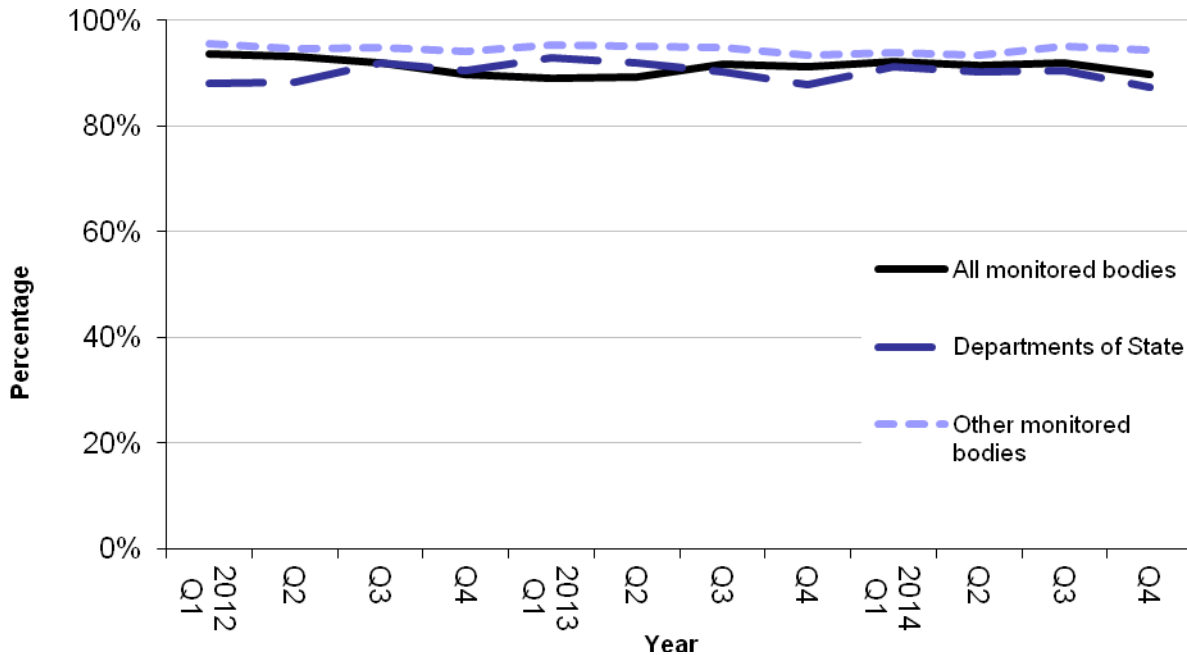
The FOI Act requires public bodies to respond to written requests for information within 20 working days of receipt (the standard deadline). In limited circumstances, additional time is allowed for the consideration of public interest. Those answered within this extended time period are classed as “in time”.

In previous publications, annual timeliness figures were based on the aggregated four quarterly monitoring returns completed for a given calendar year. However for some monitored bodies, this method did not always provide accurate results as there were inconsistencies between the combined quarters and the overall year end figures. For this reason, the process of measuring timeliness has been altered, with departments now providing an annual report as well as quarterly reports. This provides a more accurate picture of the overall numbers of FOI / EIR requests received, principally because they were collected more recently.

During 2014, 87% of requests received were sent a substantive response within this standard deadline – up from 86% in 2013. Overall, 91% of the requests received during 2014 were responded to “in time”, in that they either received a response within the standard deadline or were subject to a permitted deadline extension. This is consistent with the same figure from 2013. The range of timeliness for monitored bodies within the standard deadline was 68% to 100%. Between 76% and 100% of requests were “in time”.

Departments of State answered 85% of requests within the 20 day limit in 2014, compared with 90% for the other monitored bodies. Departments of State were also more likely to use the permitted extension of the 20-day deadline to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest. As a result, the proportion of requests answered “in time” in 2014 was slightly more closely matched, at 90% for Departments of State and 94% for other monitored bodies. Figure 2 shows that the trend of other monitored bodies having better timeliness than Departments of State has largely held over the last three years.

Figure 2: Percentage of FOI requests processed in time by Departments of State and other monitored bodies, quarterly from Q1 2012



In the fourth quarter of 2014, 90% of requests were answered “in time” (two percentage points fewer than the third quarter of 2014) and 85% were sent a response within the standard deadline (2 percentage points fewer than in Q3 2014).

3. Initial outcomes of requests [see Tables 6, 7, 8, 9]

In 2014, of the 46,806 requests received by all monitored bodies:

- 215 requests were “on hold” awaiting a fee payment or had “lapsed” because a fee had been charged but not paid;
- 8,850 requests sought information that was not held by the monitored body in question;
- 3,118 requests were responded to with requests for clarification (‘advice and assistance’) because the body handling the request needed further details in order to identify the information sought.

The remaining 34,623 requests were assumed to be “resolvable”, in that it was possible to give a substantive decision on whether to release the information being sought.

Of the 34,623 “resolvable” requests:

- 50% were granted in full, down from 55% in 2013; the proportion of requests granted in full has generally followed a downward trend since 2005.
- 15% were withheld in part; up from 13% in 2013.
- 33% were withheld in full, up from 30% in 2013; this proportion has been slowly increasing since 2005.

- 2% had not yet received a substantive response at the time of monitoring.

Figure 3a illustrates the outcome of resolvable requests since 2005. Figure 3b shows that the proportion of requests granted in full has slowly reduced since the act was introduced, while the proportion of those fully withheld has increased. This may reflect a changing nature of requests as the monitored bodies have made more routine information available to the public.

Figure 3a: Initial outcomes of resolvable requests, 2005 - 2014

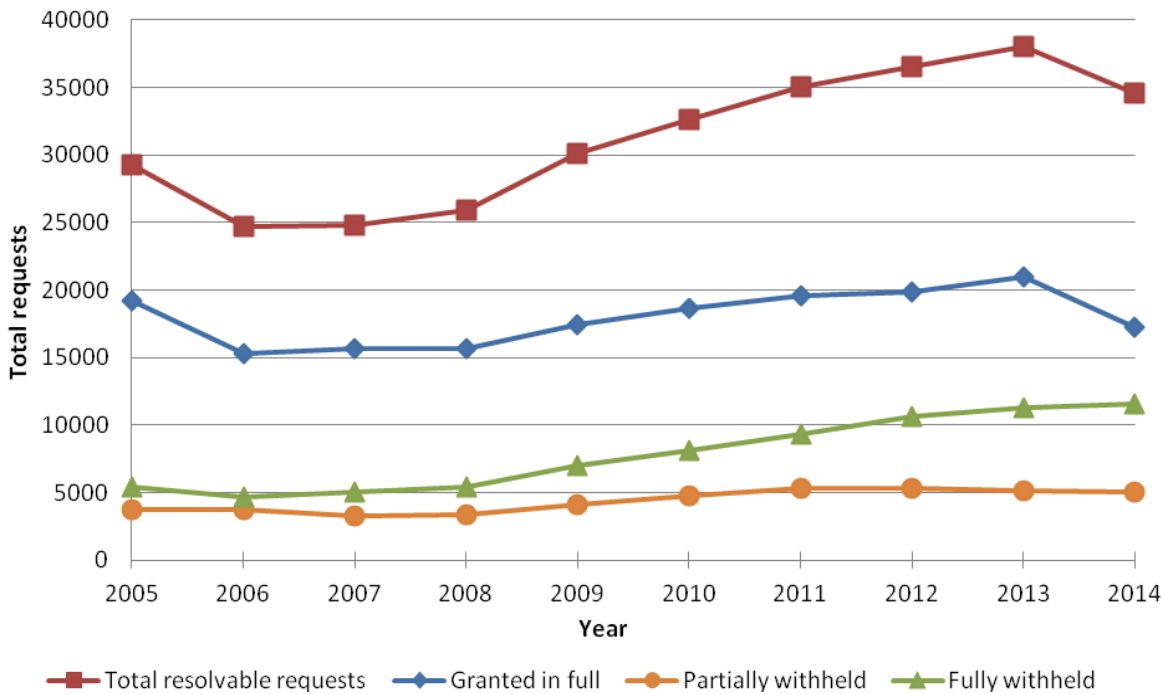
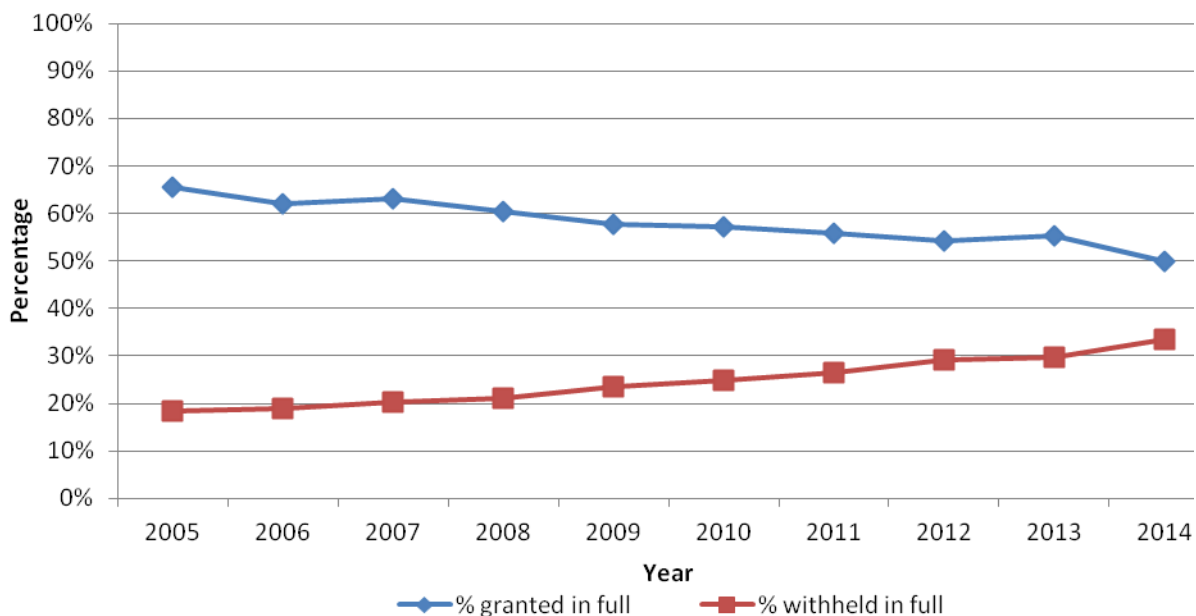


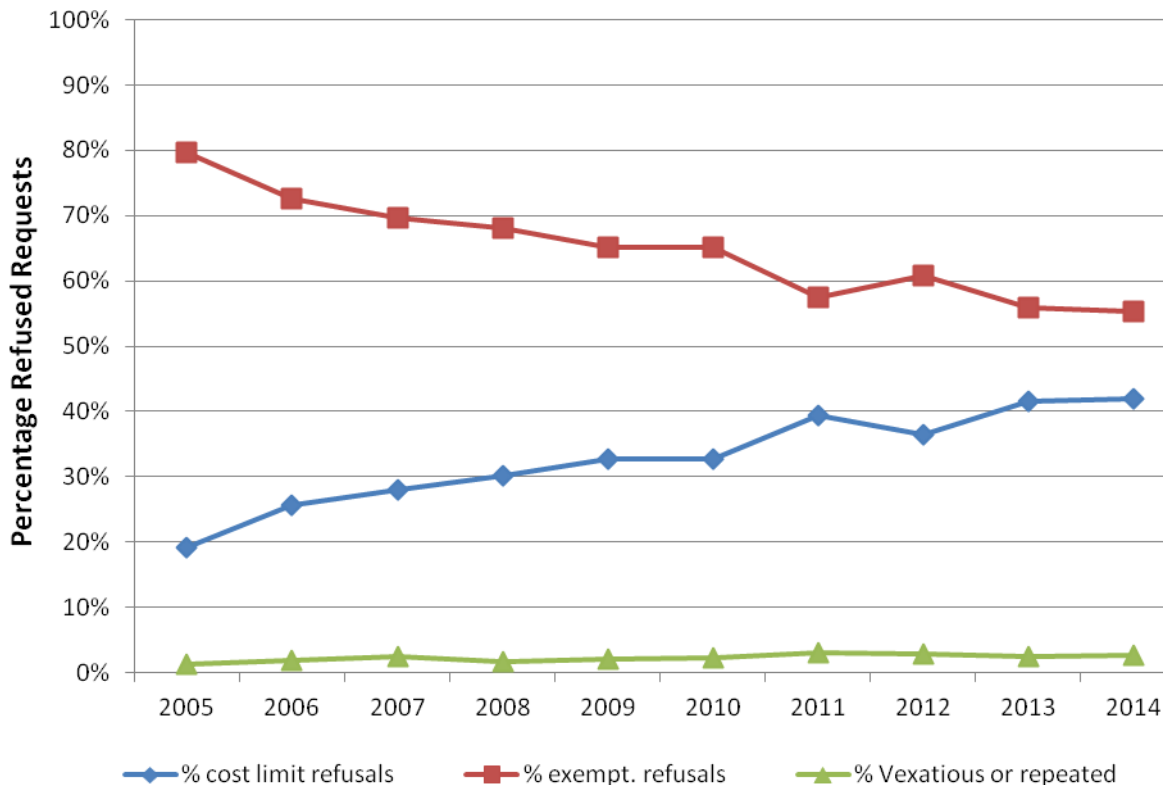
Figure 3b: Proportion of requests granted in full, 2005 - 2014



Of the 11,558 requests rejected in full in 2014: 174 were considered vexatious, 143 were repeated FOI requests, 4,838 were over the cost limit as defined in section 12 of the Act, and

6,403 were rejected due to an exemption or exception. The long term trend has one of an increasing proportion of cost limit refusals against a decreasing proportion of exemption refusals, as seen in figure 4. The percentage of vexatious requests has remained constant since 2005.

Figure 4: Breakdown of refused resolvable FOI requests over time



In the fourth quarter of 2014:

Of the 10,724 requests received by the monitored bodies: 25 are on hold or had lapsed by the end of the quarter; 1,993 sought information not held; and 636 needed further clarification.

Of the remaining 8,095 “resolvable” requests:

- 47% were granted in full, down from 49% in Q3 2014;
- 14% were withheld in part, unchanged from Q3 2014;
- 33% were withheld in full, up from the 32% in Q3 2014;
- 6% had not yet received a substantive response at the time of monitoring, up 1 percentage point from Q3 2014.

4. Use of exemptions and exceptions [see Table 10]

Under the FOI Act, a public authority can only refuse to provide requested information that it holds if:

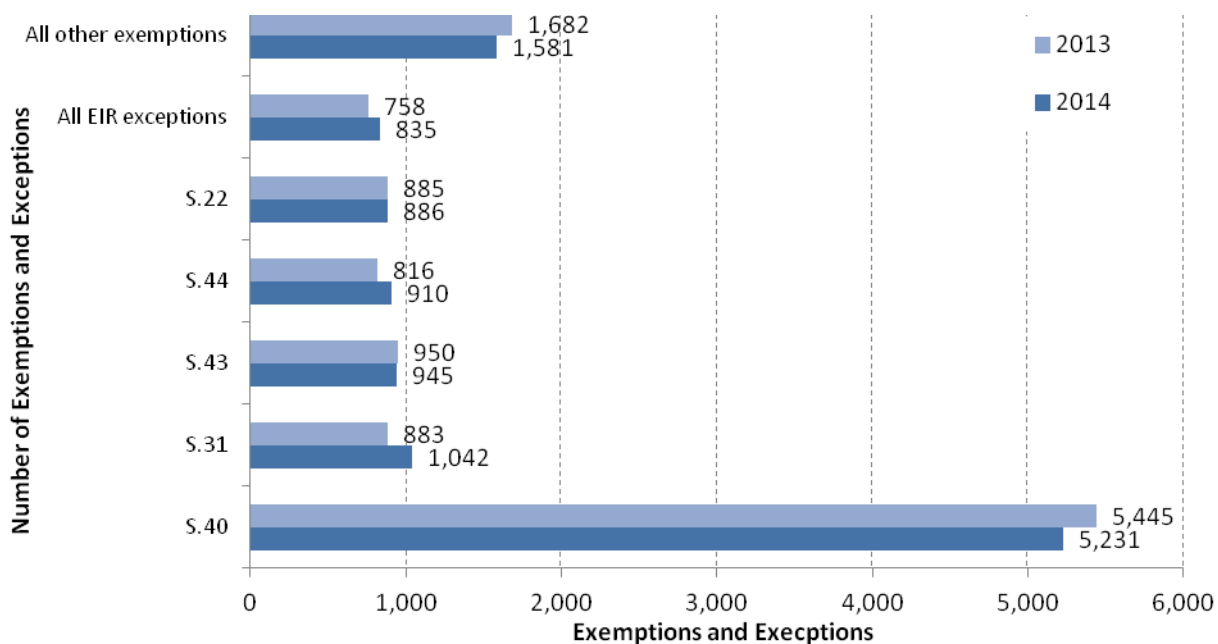
- The request is considered vexatious or repeated;

- The cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit;
- The information falls in one or more of the categories of exempt information (“exemptions”) listed in Part II of the Act.

There are similar arrangements that apply to certain types of information under the EIRs. These list a number of “exceptions to the duty to disclose environmental information” in Part 3 of the Regulations.

In 2014, one or more of these exemptions or exceptions was applied to a total of 11,430 requests across all monitored bodies. The five most commonly applied exemptions or exceptions in 2014 and the change in their use from 2013 is illustrated in figure 5:

Figure 5: Requests where FOI exemptions and EIR exceptions were applied by monitored bodies during 2014



- Section 40 – Personal Information – 5,231 exemptions
- Section 31 – Law Enforcement – 1,042 exemptions
- Section 43 – Commercial Interests – 945 exemptions
- Section 44 – Prohibitions on Disclosure – 910 exemptions
- Section 22 – Information intended for future publication – 886 exemptions

The overall use of exemptions has remained mostly unchanged from 2013, when 11,419 exemptions and exceptions were applied. The number of EIRs received in 2014 has remained similar to 2013; however there has been a rise in the use of EIR exceptions from 758 exceptions to 835, an increase of 10%.

Section 40 (personal information) was the most widely used exemption. For other exemptions, the profile of usage differed between Departments of State and other monitored bodies, and reflects the different functions that these bodies perform.

Departments of State were more likely than other monitored bodies to have applied exemptions under Section 35 (formulation of government policy, etc.), Section 43 (commercial interests), Section 36 (prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs) and Section 22 (information intended for future publication) when withholding requested information. Similar trends have been seen in previous years, and likely reflect the role of Departments of State at the centre of government policy-making.

By contrast, other monitored bodies were more likely than Departments of State to use Section 30 (investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities), Section 33 (audit functions), Section 38 (Health and Safety) and Section 44 (prohibitions on disclosure). This similarly reflects their roles either as regulators or as administrative bodies whose functions are prescribed in legislation.

5. Use of Section 21 Exemption [see Tables 11, 12]

A Section 21 exemption can be used under the FoI Act when information is reasonably available by other means⁵. Section 21 has been reported individually in this bulletin since Q1 2014; previous publications have excluded FoI requests exempt under Section 21 because the FoI Act is not meant to act as a means to access data in the public domain, as such these are straightforward to answer and could skew both the volume and timeliness figures

However, Section 21 can be applied as an exemption under the FoI Act, and is still subject to the relevant handling timescales. Inclusion of these statistics in the bulletin presents a more comprehensive picture of effort by monitored bodies in relation to the Act.

Section 21s are difficult to classify by outcome so this exemption is reported separately: the request is refused but only because the information is already published.

In the final quarter of 2014, there were 557 requests where a Section 21 exemption was applied⁶ either in full or in part. Of these, 92% received a response within the 20-day deadline. This is a 2 percentage point decrease from the previous quarter.

Over the 2014 calendar year, monitored bodies recorded receiving 2,443 requests where a section 21 exemption was applied either partially or fully. The Ministry of Justice applied this exemption most frequently – on 305 occasions. Of the 2056 requests exempted under section 21 where departments could distinguish between application of a full or part exemption, 79% were applied in full.

In 2014, 92% of all requests that were exempted under Section 21 were responded to within the 20 day deadline. For Departments of State the figure was 91%, and for other monitored bodies 96%. Across all monitored bodies, this value ranged from 71% for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to 100% for a range of other departments.

⁵ www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21

⁶ These only include requests where a Section 21 was the only exemption used.

6. Internal Reviews in 2013 and 2014 [see Tables 13, 14, 15]

Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an Internal Review if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether or not to release requested information, if their request was not dealt with within 20 working days or if they felt a fee was wrongly charged. This process should be a fair and thorough review of the initial decision.

Figures relating to Internal Reviews are collected annually only.

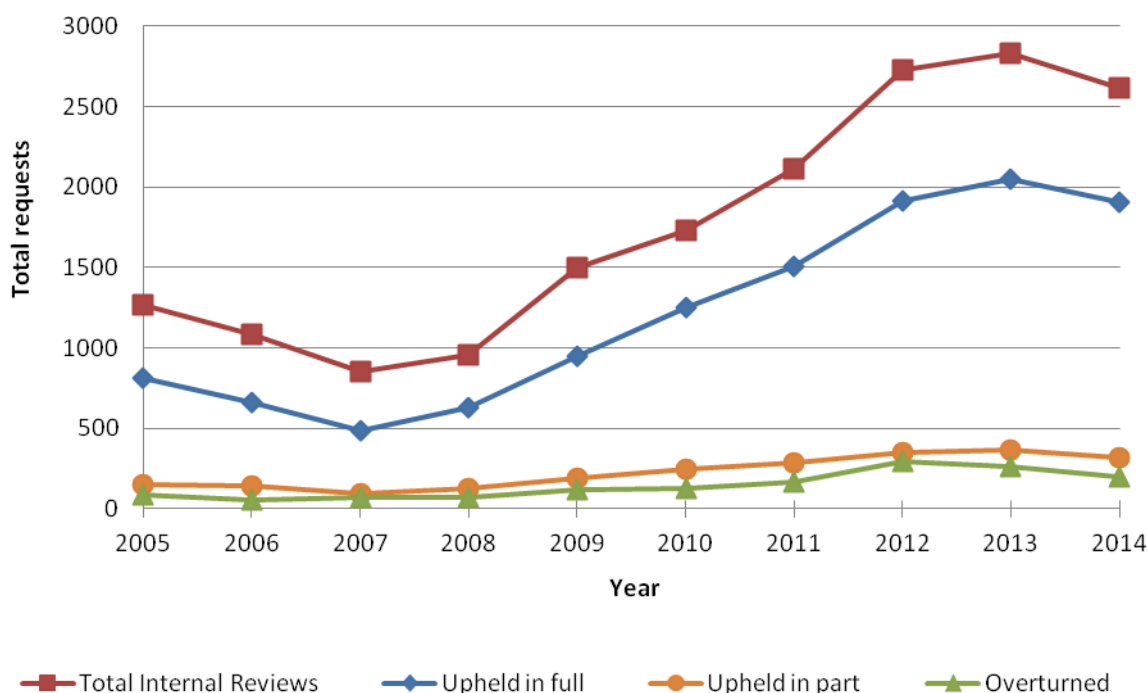
Across all monitored bodies, a total of 2,615 Internal Reviews were reported as having been initiated on information requests initially received during 2014 on the grounds that some or all of the requested information was originally withheld. This is 8% lower than the number in the previous year (2,832). The percentage of internal reviews as a proportion of total requests has increased by 0.1% since 2013 to 5.6%.

The outcome of 2,417 of these Internal Reviews was known at the time of monitoring. Of these:

- The initial handling of the request under review was upheld fully in 79% of these cases;
- The initial handling was upheld partially in a further 13% of cases;
- In the remaining 8% of cases, the requester's complaint was upheld and the initial handling of the request was overturned.

The number of Internal Reviews had been increasing since between 2007 and 2013, but has reduced in 2014, as illustrated by figure 7.

Figure 7: Number of Internal Reviews and breakdown of their outcomes



Departments of State were more likely to receive Internal Reviews than other monitored bodies. Departments of State received 69 Internal Reviews per 1,000 information requests submitted during 2013, compared to 30 among other monitored bodies. Other monitored bodies were more likely to uphold the original handling in full than Departments of State (82% against 78% respectively).

The number of Internal Reviews as a percentage of fully refused requests has also fallen. By the end of the monitoring period in 2013, 25% of refused requests had an internal review, but in 2014 this had decreased to 23%.

Durations of Internal Reviews received in 2014

The Code of Practice issued under Section 45 of the FOI Act states that Internal Review procedures should “encourage a prompt determination of the complaint”. Of the 2,615 Internal Reviews carried out by monitored bodies in 2014, 2,417 (92%) had been completed by the time these statistics were collected. Of these:

- 62% of these Internal Reviews took 20 working days or fewer;
- 30% took between 21 and 60 working days;
- 5% took between 60 and 100 days;
- 2% took more than 100 days.

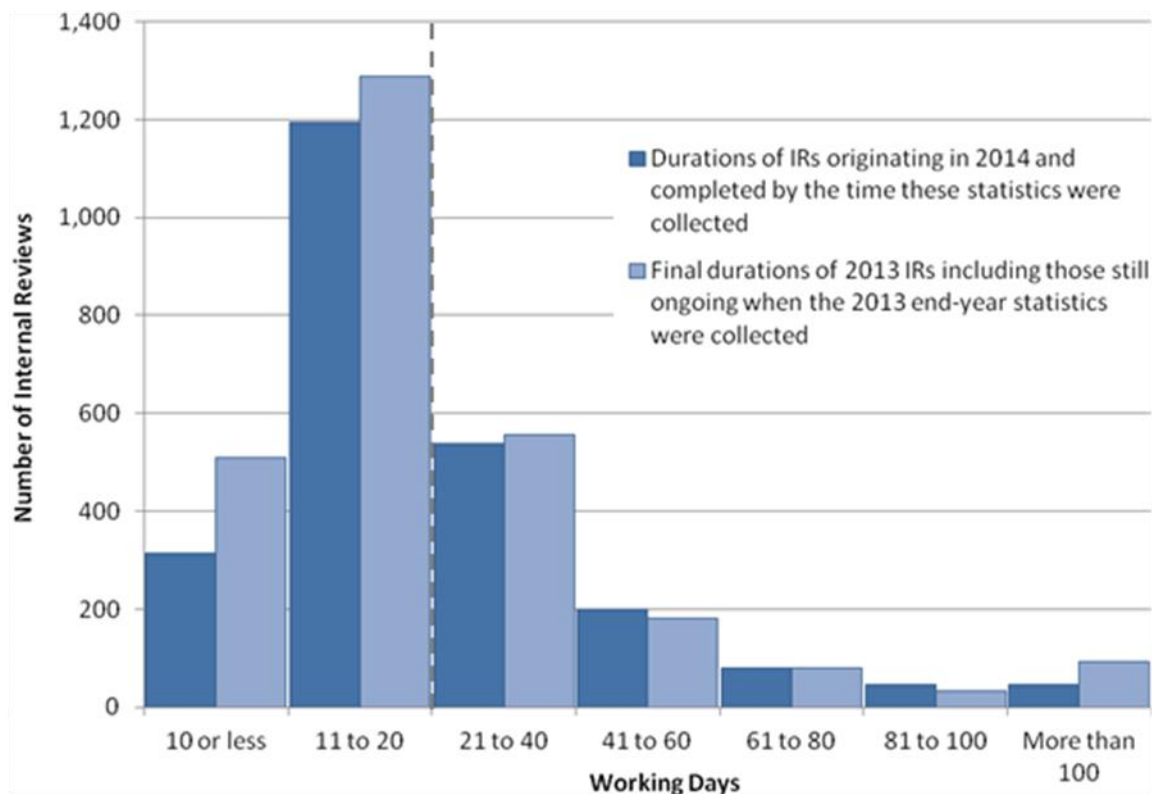
Duration of Internal Reviews originating in previous year, 2013

Some Internal Reviews began in 2013 but were ongoing when the previous end-year statistics were collected. all but two of these (held at OFWAT) have subsequently been resolved and their timeliness is illustrated in Figure 8.

For those 40 monitored bodies able to provide these figures⁷, there were 130 requests subject to an Internal Review which had not reached a conclusion by the time the 2013 annual statistics were collected. Of these, 53% took longer than 60 working days to complete (and 42% took more than 100 days). Figure 8 shows the timeliness of Internal Reviews originating in 2013 and 2014.

⁷ The Home Office were unable to provide timeliness data for outstanding IRs at the end of 2013 by the date of publication.

Figure 8: Internal Review Timeliness originating in 2014 and eventual timeliness of those originating in 2013



The statutory deadline for Internal Reviews is 20 working days – represented by the dashed line.

7. Appeals to the Information Commissioner in 2014 [see Table 16]

If a requester has applied for an Internal Review of a public authority’s response to a FOI request, but remains dissatisfied with the outcome, he or she is able make a free formal appeal to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). The ICO is the independent regulator of public authorities in their handling of information requests. Full details of the role of the ICO and how to make an appeal can be found on its website at: www.ico.gov.uk.

Formal complaints to the ICO often relate to complex and difficult issues and the ICO’s response is not subject to any statutory time limit. Data has been collected on appeals where some or all of the information requested has been withheld from the applicant. These figures do not relate to purely procedural matters and will therefore be different to the ICO’s own figures on FOI appeals case work.

Figures relating to appeals to the ICO are collected annually only.

During 2014, there were 395 appeals to the ICO relating to the refusal of information requests by monitored bodies, compared to 408 in the previous year. This represents 0.8% of all requests received. A total of 263 of these appeals had been completed at the time of monitoring. Of these,

- The public authority’s initial handling of the request was fully upheld in 213 cases (81%);
- The initial handling was partially upheld in a further 19 (7%);

- In the remaining 31 (12%) of cases, the applicant's complaint was upheld.

Of the 395 appeals to the ICO, 320 related to requests originally received by Departments of State, suggesting that they are more likely than other monitored bodies to have their response to an FOI request appealed.

If the requester or government body is not satisfied with the ICO's decision, the case can be taken to the First Tier Tribunal (Information Rights). For more information, see the Annual Tribunal statistics published on www.justice.gov.uk/statistics/tribunals/annual-stats

8. Duration of public interest test extensions [see Tables 17, 18]

Under some exemptions of the FOI Act, defined as qualified exemptions, a public authority receiving an information request is required to consider whether or not the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in withholding it. Under the Act, a public authority is permitted to extend the 20-day time limit for responding to requests, in order to make this public interest test consideration.

Figures relating to the duration of public interest test extensions (PITs) are collected annually only.

Durations of PITs received in 2014

There were 1,922 requests received by monitored bodies in 2014 where a statutory PIT extension was applied to the response deadline and for which extension duration data are available⁸. 1,695 requests had been processed in full by the time of monitoring. Of these,

- 58% completed the public interest test consideration in 20 working days or fewer;
- 33% took between 21 and 60 working days;
- 7% took between 61 and 100 days;
- 2% took more than 100 days.

ICO Good Practice Guidance states that best practice is an extension of 20 days or fewer⁹. In total, of all requests resolved in 2014, 89% of FOI requests were answered within the original 20 days or within a further 20 day PIT extension.

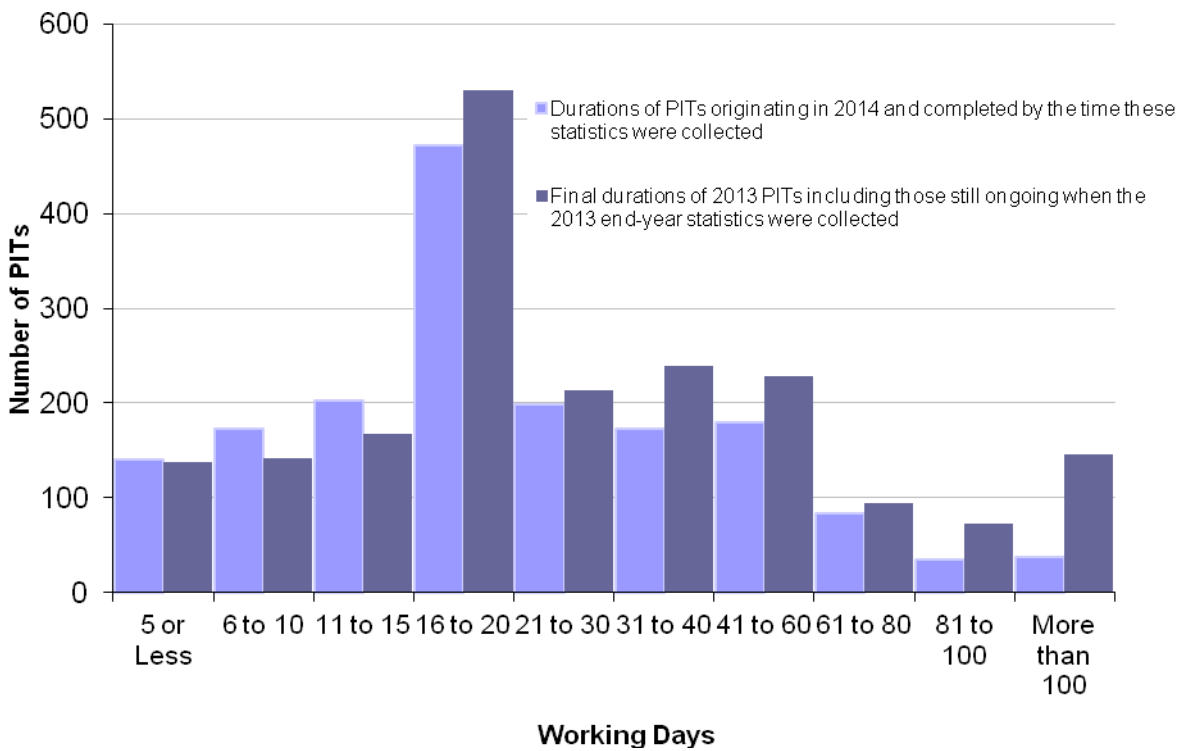
Duration of PITs originating in 2013

Some public interest test extensions originating in 2013 were still ongoing when the 2013 end-year statistics were collected. For monitored bodies, there were 188 requests that had a statutory extension applied in the previous period (2013) but had not been finalised by the start of the 2014 monitoring period. Of these, 12% took fewer than 20 working days to complete, 60% took longer than 60 working days and 47% took more than 100 days. PIT timeliness of requests originating in 2013 and 2014 is given in figure 9.

⁸ The HSE are unable to provide timeliness data for PIT extensions.

⁹ ico.org.uk/~media/documents/library/Freedom_of_Information/Detailed_specialist_guides/time-for-compliance-foia-guidance.pdf

Figure 9: Public Interest Test Timeliness originating in 2014 and eventual timeliness of those originating in 2013



Annex A: Statistical Tables

- Table 1 Summary statistics, 2011 to 2014
- Table 2 Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014 and the quarter October – December 2014, and their status at the time of end-of-year monitoring
- Table 3 Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 January 2012
- Table 4 Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014 and the quarter October – December 2014
- Table 5 Proportion of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies that were answered “in time”, by quarter, since 1 January 2012
- Table 6 Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 October – 31 December 2014
- Table 7 Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014
- Table 8 Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 January 2012
- Table 9 Statutory reasons given by monitored bodies for fully withholding non-routine information requested during 2014
- Table 10 Exemptions (FOI) and exceptions (EIRs) applied by monitored bodies when withholding non-routine information requested during 2014
- Table 11 Section 21 exemptions applied by monitored bodies when dealing with routine information requests received from 1 July – 30 September 2014
- Table 12 Section 21 exemptions applied by monitored bodies when dealing with routine information requests received in 2014
- Table 13 Outcomes of Internal Reviews of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014, where the requested information was initially withheld

Table 14 Duration of completed Internal Reviews of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014, where the requested information was initially withheld

Table 15 Duration of Internal Reviews of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies in 2012, where the requested information was initially withheld, and which were reported as not completed in the 2013 end-year monitoring statistics

Table 16 Outcomes of appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) about the handling of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014

Table 17 Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014

Table 18 Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2013, and which were reported as not completed in the 2013 end-year monitoring statistics

Symbols and conventions

- Not applicable
- 0 Nil
- * Percentage not supplied because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer
- # Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details
- † Government body changed during a previous monitoring period, see Annex C
- (r) Revised Data

Complete sets of figures showing the summary figures from the start of the Act, the latest period October-December 2014 and the 2014 calendar year can be found in accompanying files on the Ministry of Justice website at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-foi-statistics

TABLE 1
Summary statistics, 2011 to 2014

	Departments of State	Other monitored bodies	TOTAL
<u>Initial handling of requests</u>			
Total number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies			
2011	30,531	16,610	47,141
2012	32,828	16,636	49,464
2013	35,179	16,517	51,696
2014	30,991	15,815	46,806
% change, 2013 to 2014	-12%	-4%	-9%
Proportion of requests received (excluding on-hold or lapsed¹) where response was provided within 20-day deadline²			
2011	85%	93%	86%
2012	86%	92%	87%
2013	85%	90%	88%
2014	85%	90%	87%
Proportion of requests received (excluding on-hold or lapsed¹) where response was provided "in time"³			
2011	90%	95%	91%
2012	91%	95%	92%
2013	90%	92%	92%
2014	90%	94%	91%
Proportion of "resolvable"⁴ requests granted in full			
2011	56%	55%	57%
2012	55%	53%	56%
2013	57%	51%	54%
2014	52%	47%	50%
Proportion of "resolvable"⁴ requests withheld in full⁵			
2011	27%	26%	25%
2012	30%	28%	27%
2013	29%	30%	29%
2014	33%	34%	33%
<u>Internal Reviews</u>			
Total number of Internal Reviews⁶ on non-routine information requests, where requested information was initially withheld			
2011	1,709	405	2,114
2012	2,274	450	2,724
2013	2,385	447	2,832
2014	2,145	470	2,615
Proportion of Internal Reviews⁶ with a known outcome where initial handling was upheld in full			
2011	76%	79%	77%
2012	73%	84%	77%
2013	75%	83%	75%
2014	78%	82%	79%
<u>Appeals to the Information Commissioner</u>			
Total number of appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office⁷ on non-routine information requests received			
2011	286	64	350
2012	285	66	351
2013	315	93	408
2014	320	75	395

Notes

1 - Requests "on hold" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received at the time of monitoring. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. Where a fee is charged and the deadline for payment expires, the request is deemed to have "lapsed" as no further action is required from the public authority.

2 - Although the standard statutory deadline for responding to an information request is 20 working days, a 30-day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to archived information. The National Archives' timeliness figures are therefore reported on this basis.

3 - Requests answered within the 20-day limit (30 days for the National Archives) or using a permitted extension. "Permitted extensions" include: requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Freedom of Information Act is extended to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest; requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Environmental Information Regulations is extended because of the complexity or volume of the request.

4 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it is possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the requested information. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

5 - "Fully withheld" requests include those which were refused because it was estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

6 - Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an "Internal Review" if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether to release requested information. This process should be a fair and impartial review of the initial decision. Requesters who are still not content with the outcome of the Internal Review can make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner if they wish (see Section 50 of the FOI Act)

7 - If an applicant is not satisfied with the outcome of a public authority's "Internal Review" of the handling of their information request, they may make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner. If the Commissioner decides that the public authority has not complied with the FOI Act, he may issue a "decision notice" setting out the steps to be taken in order to achieve compliance.

TABLE 2

Number of non-routine information requests received in 2014 and 1 October - 31 December 2014 with their status at time of monitoring¹

Government body	2014 total requests received	Request status at time of monitoring ¹				Q4 2014 requests received	Request status at time of monitoring ¹			
		Processed	"On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³		Processed	"On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	46,806	45,868	215	723	1,884	10,749	10,260	25	464	382
TOTAL for Departments of State only	30,991	30,435	0	556	1,057	6,973	6,624	0	349	228
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	15,815	15,433	215	167	827	3,776	3,636	25	115	154
Departments of State										
Attorney General's Office	194	194	0	0	0	45	45	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	1,660	1,620	0	40	4	313	288	0	25	2
Communities and Local Government	792	776	0	16	131	202	188	0	14	42
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	995	985	0	10	22	221	213	0	8	5
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	523	517	0	6	29	125	119	0	6	4
Department for Education #	1,745	1,743	0	2	4	414	412	0	2	1
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	920	889	0	31	418	189	174	0	15	69
Department for International Development	426	421	0	5	8	96	91	0	5	0
Department for Transport #	2,707	2,693	0	14	92	694	689	0	5	16
Department for Work and Pensions #	4,667	4,628	0	39	0	1,082	1,043	0	39	0
Department of Energy and Climate Change	665	655	0	10	300	158	148	0	10	76
Department of Health	1,720	1,720	0	0	0	293	293	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,164	1,131	0	33	9	235	214	0	21	2
HM Treasury #	1,447	1,395	0	52	10	285	274	0	11	6
Home Office #	2,899	2,869	0	30	0	692	661	0	31	0
Ministry of Defence #	3,482	3,376	0	106	28	831	770	0	61	5
Ministry of Justice #	4,441	4,282	0	159	2	992	896	0	96	0
Northern Ireland Office	191	191	0	0	0	33	33	0	0	0
Scotland Office	154	152	0	2	0	33	33	0	0	0
UK Export Finance	84	83	0	1	0	16	16	0	0	0
Wales Office	115	115	0	0	0	24	24	0	0	0

TABLE 2 continued

Number of non-routine information requests received in 2014 and 1 October - 31 December 2014 with their status at time of monitoring¹

Government body	2014 total requests received	Request status at time of monitoring ¹				Q4 2014 requests received	Request status at time of monitoring ¹			
		Processed	"On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³		Processed	"On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³
Other bodies included in monitoring										
Charity Commission	611	610	0	1	1	162	161	0	1	0
Competition and Markets Authority	92	92	0	0	0	40	40	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	740	739	0	1	0	165	164	0	1	0
Debt Management Office	55	55	0	0	1	9	9	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	173	173	0	0	6	41	41	0	0	1
Health and Safety Executive	5,052	5,003	0	49	288	1,236	1,196	0	40	71
HM Land Registry	388	387	1	0	0	104	104	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	2,262	2,220	0	42	9	592	571	0	21	2
National Archives	3,236	2,950	214	72	2	716	641	25	50	1
National Savings and Investments	134	134	0	0	0	23	23	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	292	292	0	0	0	75	75	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	829	828	0	1	0	176	175	0	1	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	410	410	0	0	121	106	106	0	0	28
Office of Rail Regulation	157	157	0	0	0	33	33	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	64	64	0	0	0	15	15	0	0	0
Royal Mint	33	32	0	1	0	4	3	0	1	0
Rural Payments Agency	520	520	0	0	394	116	116	0	0	49
Serious Fraud Office	94	94	0	0	0	17	17	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	369	369	0	0	0	66	66	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	304	304	0	0	5	80	80	0	0	2

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during previous monitoring period, see Annex C

1 - Monitoring returns were submitted to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) during February 2015

2 - Requests "on hold" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received at the time of monitoring. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. Where a fee is charged and the deadline for payment expires, the request is deemed to have "lapsed" as no further action is required from the public authority.

3 - The amended Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) came into force on 1 January 2005 to coincide with the FOI Act.

4 - UK Export Finance is the operating name of the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

TABLE 3
Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 January 2012

Government body	2012				2013				2014			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	14,116	11,634	11,563	12,159	13,712	12,667	13,370	12,140	13,585	11,689	11,067	10,749
TOTAL for Departments of State only	9,452	7,468	7,646	8,251	9,312	8,536	9,145	8,400	9,099	7,811	7,239	6,973
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	4,664	4,166	3,917	3,908	4,400	4,131	4,225	3,740	4,486	3,878	3,828	3,776
<i>Departments of State</i>												
Attorney General's Office	49	48	21	43	53	64	78	64	57	41	53	45
Cabinet Office #	492	378	357	378	452	466	405	435	528	473	346	313
Communities and Local Government	179	168	241	193	247	212	208	175	197	171	210	202
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	299	231	247	232	227	238	298	234	301	230	251	221
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	184	185	128	122	136	134	138	124	137	152	109	125
Department for Education #	349	313	332	315	476	454	390	439	518	443	370	414
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	200	179	147	170	176	170	243	237	318	214	196	189
Department for International Development	117	106	80	105	106	114	127	123	134	111	85	96
Department for Transport #	892	713	701	836	873	693	1,074	1,008	684	673	602	694
Department for Work and Pensions #	1,326	1,005	1,156	1,282	1,457	1,356	1,513	1,257	1,408	1,065	1,104	1,082
Department of Energy and Climate Change	216	144	147	197	168	154	207	212	240	153	141	158
Department of Health	1,077	417	430	483	567	524	514	398	469	490	451	293
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	390	336	279	332	285	338	293	309	369	275	271	235
HM Treasury #	759	624	713	679	779	689	642	522	(r) 388	449	(r) 330	285
Home Office #	923	900	973	1,110	1,129	884	893	768	872	741	736	692
Ministry of Defence #	914	844	817	853	940	816	904	903	1,022	856	781	831
Ministry of Justice #	910	757	757	781	1,083	1,103	1,038	1,068	1,308	1,133	(r) 1062	992
Northern Ireland Office	58	46	49	53	56	41	60	46	60	58	40	33
Scotland Office	43	30	25	40	41	34	41	30	38	39	37	33
UK Export Finance	27	18	9	10	27	29	32	22	16	21	31	16
Wales Office	48	26	37	37	34	23	47	26	35	23	33	24

TABLE 3 continued
Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 January 2012

Government body	2012				2013				2014			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Charity Commission	322	219	146	127	173	151	158	142	167	156	126	162
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	75	65	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Competition and Markets Authority	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	32	40
Crown Prosecution Service	162	141	171	142	181	160	165	160	220	182	173	165
Debt Management Office	17	15	9	6	13	25	15	9	14	15	17	9
Food Standards Agency	36	49	25	34	98	44	40	35	53	41	38	41
Health and Safety Executive	1,795	1,599	1,617	1,641	1,657	1,447	1,417	1,246	1,378	1,246	1,243	1,236
HM Land Registry	72	79	55	88	98	133	93	72	100	96	87	104
HM Revenue and Customs	611	501	447	524	518	518	554	576	622	565	515	592
National Archives	750	743	720	643	864	861	902	713	909	830	783	716
National Savings and Investments	30	25	17	21	30	16	43	29	38	32	41	23
Office for National Statistics	43	46	67	71	73	61	84	48	82	65	71	75
Office for Standards in Education	212	183	140	162	166	172	186	209	309	184	159	176
Office of Fair Trading †	111	72	92	105	96	85	87	83	69	-	-	-
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	45	41	52	64	56	67	74	94	97	90	115	106
Office of Rail Regulation	44	39	39	31	45	58	62	42	46	37	41	33
Ordnance Survey	29	22	23	17	15	16	35	20	13	11	25	15
Royal Mint	5	16	4	4	5	1	5	7	15	8	6	4
Rural Payments Agency	118	121	117	99	109	131	136	112	137	126	141	116
Serious Fraud Office	25	36	21	37	28	46	37	23	22	25	28	17
Treasury Solicitor's Department	131	135	133	66	141	85	56	69	110	94	99	66
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	31	19	22	26	34	54	76	51	85	55	88	80

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves.

Annex C gives full details.

† - Government body changed during the monitoring period, see Annex C

TABLE 4

Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 2014 and from 1 October - 31 December 2014

Government body	2014 requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage meeting deadline	Percentage meeting deadline or with permitted extension	Q4 requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage meeting deadline	Percentage meeting deadline or with permitted extension
		20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to deadline	Late response (i.e. deadline missed)				20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to deadline	Late response (i.e. deadline missed)		
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	46,591	40,570	1,866	4,155	87%	91%	10,724	9,152	479	1,093	85%	90%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	30,991	26,454	1,324	3,213	85%	90%	6,973	5,735	352	886	82%	87%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	15,600	14,116	542	942	90%	94%	3,751	3,417	127	207	91%	94%
Departments of State												
Attorney General's Office	194	189	0	5	97%	97%	45	45	0	0	100%	100%
Cabinet Office #	1,660	1,372	161	127	83%	92%	313	234	42	37	75%	88%
Communities and Local Government	792	554	44	194	70%	76%	202	131	17	54	65%	73%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	995	873	76	46	88%	95%	221	195	18	8	88%	96%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	523	479	19	25	92%	95%	125	108	8	9	86%	93%
Department for Education #	1,745	1,513	60	172	87%	90%	414	359	20	35	87%	92%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	920	662	41	217	72%	76%	189	94	15	80	50%	58%
Department for International Development	426	400	17	9	94%	98%	96	87	7	2	91%	98%
Department for Transport #	2,707	2,487	92	128	92%	95%	694	643	24	27	93%	96%
Department for Work and Pensions #	4,667	4,195	52	420	90%	91%	1,082	963	20	99	89%	91%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	665	568	57	40	85%	94%	158	130	19	9	82%	94%
Department of Health	1,720	1,705	15	0	99%	100%	293	290	3	0	99%	100%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,164	794	251	119	68%	90%	235	161	51	23	69%	90%
HM Treasury #	1,447	1,243	111	93	86%	94%	285	251	15	19	88%	93%
Home Office #	2,899	2,384	151	364	82%	87%	692	556	65	71	80%	90%
Ministry of Defence #	3,482	2,872	158	452	82%	87%	831	669	26	136	81%	84%
Ministry of Justice #	4,441	3,660	16	765	82%	83%	992	720	2	270	73%	73%
Northern Ireland Office	191	171	1	19	90%	90%	33	30	0	3	91%	91%
Scotland Office	154	142	2	10	92%	94%	33	31	0	2	94%	94%
UK Export Finance	84	77	0	7	92%	92%	16	14	0	2	88%	88%
Wales Office	115	114	0	1	99%	99%	24	24	0	0	100%	100%

TABLE 4 continued

Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 2014 and from 1 October - 31 December 2014

Government body	2014 requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage meeting deadline	Percentage meeting deadline or with permitted extension	Q4 requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage meeting deadline	Percentage meeting deadline or with permitted extension
		20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to deadline	Late response (i.e. deadline missed)				20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to deadline	Late response (i.e. deadline missed)		
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Charity Commission	611	573	0	38	94%	94%	162	145	0	17	90%	90%
Competition and Markets Authority	92	91	0	1	99%	99%	40	39	0	1	98%	98%
Crown Prosecution Service	740	696	10	34	94%	95%	165	159	0	6	96%	96%
Debt Management Office	55	55	0	0	100%	100%	9	9	0	0	100%	100%
Food Standards Agency	173	158	13	2	91%	99%	41	39	2	0	95%	100%
Health and Safety Executive	5,052	4,607	55	390	91%	92%	1,236	1,133	35	68	92%	94%
HM Land Registry	387	384	0	3	99%	99%	104	103	0	1	99%	99%
HM Revenue and Customs	2,262	1,979	5	278	87%	88%	592	515	1	76	87%	87%
National Archives ^	3,022	2,554	384	84	85%	97%	691	597	78	16	86%	98%
National Savings and Investments	134	129	0	5	96%	96%	23	23	0	0	100%	100%
Office for National Statistics	292	286	2	4	98%	99%	75	71	0	4	95%	95%
Office for Standards in Education	829	786	22	21	95%	97%	176	167	4	5	95%	97%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	410	362	15	33	88%	92%	106	100	1	5	94%	95%
Office of Rail Regulation	157	136	15	6	87%	96%	33	29	4	0	88%	100%
Ordnance Survey	64	63	1	0	98%	100%	15	14	1	0	93%	100%
Royal Mint	33	27	2	4	82%	88%	4	3	1	0	75%	100%
Rural Payments Agency	520	495	9	16	95%	97%	116	115	0	1	99%	99%
Serious Fraud Office	94	68	8	18	72%	81%	17	13	0	4	76%	76%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	369	365	0	4	99%	99%	66	66	0	0	100%	100%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	304	302	1	1	99%	100%	80	77	0	3	96%	96%

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

^ - Although the standard statutory deadline for responding to an information request is 20 working days, a 30-day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to archived information. The National Archives' timeliness figures are therefore reported on this basis.

* - Percentages were not shown if the number of qualifying requests was 20 or fewer prior to Q1 2014.

1 - Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. They are therefore excluded from the calculation of timeliness measures.

2 - "Permitted extensions" include:

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Freedom of Information Act is extended to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest.

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Environmental Information Regulations is extended because of the complexity or volume of the request.

TABLE 5

Proportion of non-routine information requests received that were answered "in time", by quarter, since 1 January 2012 (see footnote)

Government body	2012				2013				2014			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec	Jan–Mar	Apr–Jun	Jul–Sep	Oct–Dec
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	94%	93%	92%	90%	89%	89%	92%	91%	92%	91%	91%	90%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	88%	88%	92%	91%	93%	92%	90%	88%	91%	90%	89%	87%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	96%	94%	95%	94%	95%	95%	95%	93%	94%	93%	95%	94%
Departments of State												
Attorney General's Office	96%	100%	95%	98%	100%	97%	95%	97%	98%	90%	100%	100%
Cabinet Office #	93%	92%	93%	95%	86%	83%	85%	86%	95%	90%	94%	88%
Communities and Local Government	94%	96%	92%	91%	87%	92%	89%	82%	80%	82%	72%	73%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	93%	98%	99%	96%	96%	99%	96%	98%	98%	97%	96%	96%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	98%	100%	100%	100%	99%	97%	96%	95%	98%	96%	96%	93%
Department for Education #	78%	84%	74%	82%	89%	87%	87%	85%	87%	91%	91%	92%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	91%	92%	93%	96%	89%	89%	100%	97%	99%	92%	62%	58%
Department for International Development	100%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	98%	98%	99%	98%
Department for Transport #	95%	96%	96%	95%	96%	96%	96%	97%	95%	96%	97%	96%
Department for Work and Pensions #	89%	85%	83%	79%	92%	95%	94%	94%	92%	91%	90%	91%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	95%	97%	96%	96%	97%	96%	99%	97%	98%	92%	93%	94%
Department of Health	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	91%	91%	96%	93%	95%	88%	88%	82%	88%	93%	90%	90%
HM Treasury #	99%	95%	99%	96%	98%	96%	96%	96%	(r) 91%	96%	(r) 92%	93%
Home Office #	93%	89%	84%	72%	50%	53%	72%	81%	87%	84%	87%	90%
Ministry of Defence #	89%	90%	86%	87%	84%	87%	89%	88%	85%	87%	88%	84%
Ministry of Justice #	92%	92%	92%	90%	90%	88%	89%	87%	89%	83%	(r) 81%	73%
Northern Ireland Office	67%	87%	96%	98%	96%	98%	97%	93%	88%	88%	95%	91%
Scotland Office	98%	93%	100%	90%	95%	100%	98%	93%	92%	95%	92%	94%
UK Export Finance	93%	*	*	*	78%	66%	94%	77%	100%	90%	90%	88%
Wales Office	96%	85%	59%	86%	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 5 continued

Proportion of non-routine information requests received that were answered "in time", by quarter, since 1 January 2012 (see footnote)

Government body	2012				2013				2014			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Charity Commission	97%	95%	90%	96%	91%	96%	95%	94%	98%	95%	93%	90%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission †	97%	98%	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Competition and Markets Authority	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	97%	98%
Crown Prosecution Service	97%	93%	90%	85%	77%	71%	64%	64%	95%	97%	94%	96%
Debt Management Office	*	*	*	*	*	100%	*	*	100%	100%	100%	100%
Food Standards Agency	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	98%	98%	100%	100%
Health and Safety Executive	94%	94%	95%	93%	91%	89%	92%	92%	91%	92%	95%	94%
HM Land Registry	99%	97%	100%	98%	99%	98%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	99%
HM Revenue and Customs	92%	92%	90%	90%	92%	90%	92%	89%	88%	86%	90%	87%
National Archives ^	99%	99%	98%	98%	98%	99%	98%	98%	97%	97%	98%	98%
National Savings and Investments	100%	96%	*	95%	97%	*	95%	93%	95%	97%	100%	100%
Office for National Statistics	95%	83%	93%	80%	88%	77%	98%	96%	100%	100%	99%	95%
Office for Standards in Education	100%	99%	97%	96%	96%	97%	97%	98%	97%	99%	99%	97%
Office of Fair Trading †	98%	100%	99%	92%	97%	96%	92%	89%	97%	-	-	-
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	91%	88%	92%	97%	88%	94%	86%	90%	88%	91%	90%	95%
Office of Rail Regulation	86%	92%	95%	97%	96%	95%	95%	98%	98%	92%	95%	100%
Ordnance Survey	100%	100%	100%	*	*	*	100%	*	100%	100%	96%	100%
Royal Mint	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	93%	100%	67%	100%
Rural Payments Agency	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	97%	94%	87%	100%	100%	94%	99%
Serious Fraud Office	92%	86%	76%	76%	79%	80%	92%	96%	68%	72%	93%	76%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	98%	99%	95%	100%	98%	98%	100%	99%	99%	99%	98%	100%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	94%	*	100%	69%	94%	96%	96%	96%	99%	100%	99%	96%

- Figures supplied by these departments count requests received by one or more of their agencies, and those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

^ - Although the standard statutory deadline for responding to an information request is 20 working days, a 30-day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to archived information. The National Archives' timeliness figures are therefore reported on this basis.

* - Percentages were not shown if the number of qualifying requests was 20 or fewer prior to Q1 2014.

† - Government body changed during previous monitoring period, see Annex C

r - Revised Figures

Notes: A request is "in time" if it was answered within the statutory response deadline, or within a permitted extension to this deadline.

Permitted extensions include:

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Freedom of Information Act is extended to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest.

Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. They are therefore excluded from this calculation.

TABLE 6

Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 October - 31 December 2014

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	10,724	636	1,993	8,095	3,828	1,155	2,648	464	47%	33%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	6,973	396	1,303	5,274	2,571	668	1,686	349	49%	32%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	3,751	240	690	2,821	1,257	487	962	115	45%	34%
Departments of State										
Attorney General's Office	45	0	18	27	2	8	17	0	7%	63%
Cabinet Office #	313	19	97	197	31	17	124	25	16%	63%
Communities and Local Government	202	2	47	153	74	26	39	14	48%	25%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	221	11	51	159	46	43	62	8	29%	39%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	125	19	20	86	40	14	26	6	47%	30%
Department for Education #	414	45	55	314	208	53	51	2	66%	16%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	189	16	35	138	47	31	45	15	34%	33%
Department for International Development	96	0	12	84	47	5	27	5	56%	32%
Department for Transport #	694	11	126	557	430	44	78	5	77%	14%
Department for Work and Pensions #	1,082	17	80	985	618	57	271	39	63%	28%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	158	4	33	121	29	34	48	10	24%	40%
Department of Health	293	17	110	166	62	20	84	0	37%	51%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	235	15	48	172	52	47	52	21	30%	30%
HM Treasury #	285	9	117	159	66	21	61	11	42%	38%
Home Office #	692	70	155	467	177	77	182	31	38%	39%
Ministry of Defence #	831	52	119	660	340	87	172	61	52%	26%
Ministry of Justice #	992	80	144	768	261	76	335	96	34%	44%
Northern Ireland Office	33	1	14	18	9	1	8	0	50%	44%
Scotland Office	33	8	7	18	17	0	1	0	94%	6%
UK Export Finance	16	0	0	16	6	7	3	0	38%	19%
Wales Office	24	0	15	9	9	0	0	0	100%	0%

TABLE 6 continued

Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 October - 31 December 2014

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
Other bodies included in monitoring										
Charity Commission	162	9	30	123	61	30	31	1	50%	25%
Competition and Markets Authority	40	2	7	31	15	7	9	0	48%	29%
Crown Prosecution Service	165	12	20	133	51	11	70	1	38%	53%
Debt Management Office	9	0	1	8	5	2	1	0	63%	13%
Food Standards Agency	41	2	10	29	16	11	2	0	55%	7%
Health and Safety Executive	1,236	70	381	785	407	177	161	40	52%	21%
HM Land Registry	104	1	11	92	84	6	2	0	91%	2%
HM Revenue and Customs	592	19	51	522	96	23	382	21	18%	73%
National Archives	691	57	52	582	294	109	129	50	51%	22%
National Savings and Investments	23	0	3	20	15	1	4	0	75%	20%
Office for National Statistics	75	1	27	47	39	3	5	0	83%	11%
Office for Standards in Education	176	23	19	134	27	28	78	1	20%	58%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	106	14	22	70	34	17	19	0	49%	27%
Office of Rail Regulation	33	7	4	22	11	7	4	0	50%	18%
Ordnance Survey	15	0	5	10	5	2	3	0	50%	30%
Royal Mint	4	0	0	4	3	0	0	1	75%	0%
Rural Payments Agency	116	21	4	91	42	11	38	0	46%	42%
Serious Fraud Office	17	1	2	14	6	4	4	0	43%	29%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	66	1	11	54	22	14	18	0	41%	33%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	80	0	30	50	24	24	2	0	48%	4%

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - Percentages were not shown if the number of qualifying requests was 20 or fewer prior to Q1 2014.

1 - Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made.

2 - "Advice and assistance" would be provided to a requester when the body "reasonably requires further information in order to identify and locate the information requested". See section 1(3) of the Freedom of Information Act for further details.

3 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it is possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the requested information. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance (see note above) since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

4 - "Fully withheld" requests include those which were refused because it was estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

5 - This table counts as "resolvable" all requests where a response has not yet been provided. This assumption is likely to be generally true but may be incorrect in a small number of cases.

It should also be noted that requests where a response has not yet been provided are more likely to involve considerations which are complex and finely balanced. As a result, it cannot be assumed that these requests will be granted and refused in the same proportions as "resolvable" requests in general.

TABLE 7
Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	46,591	3,118	8,850	34,623	17,315	5,027	11,558	723	50%	33%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	30,991	2,014	5,948	23,029	11,917	2,944	7,612	556	52%	33%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	15,600	1,104	2,902	11,594	5,398	2,083	3,946	167	47%	34%
Departments of State										
Attorney General's Office	194	0	118	76	22	10	44	0	29%	58%
Cabinet Office #	1,660	231	444	985	223	107	615	40	23%	62%
Communities and Local Government	792	6	195	591	309	131	135	16	52%	23%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	995	35	228	732	244	212	266	10	33%	36%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	523	94	101	328	191	43	88	6	58%	27%
Department for Education #	1,745	189	249	1,307	803	155	347	2	61%	27%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	920	62	238	620	374	115	100	31	60%	16%
Department for International Development	426	3	80	343	205	36	97	5	60%	28%
Department for Transport #	2,707	45	457	2,205	1,693	184	314	14	77%	14%
Department for Work and Pensions #	4,667	56	275	4,336	2,896	214	1,187	39	67%	27%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	665	20	138	507	203	115	179	10	40%	35%
Department of Health	1,720	86	586	1,048	391	226	431	0	37%	41%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	1,164	104	236	824	246	287	258	33	30%	31%
HM Treasury #	1,447	12	574	861	389	100	320	52	45%	37%
Home Office #	2,899	327	555	2,017	843	307	837	30	42%	41%
Ministry of Defence #	3,482	273	581	2,628	1,475	323	724	106	56%	28%
Ministry of Justice #	4,441	408	710	3,323	1,220	339	1,605	159	37%	48%
Northern Ireland Office	191	13	87	91	42	13	36	0	46%	40%
Scotland Office	154	47	26	81	69	1	9	2	85%	11%
UK Export Finance	84	0	2	82	47	21	13	1	57%	16%
Wales Office	115	3	68	44	32	5	7	0	73%	16%

TABLE 7 continued
Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
Other bodies included in monitoring										
Charity Commission	611	52	90	469	221	150	97	1	47%	21%
Competition and Markets Authority	92	11	13	68	28	18	22	0	41%	32%
Crown Prosecution Service	740	63	101	576	206	50	319	1	36%	55%
Debt Management Office	55	0	15	40	26	12	2	0	65%	5%
Food Standards Agency	173	10	35	128	79	37	12	0	62%	9%
Health and Safety Executive	5,052	217	1,602	3,233	1,606	800	778	49	50%	24%
HM Land Registry	387	6	32	349	281	55	13	0	81%	4%
HM Revenue and Customs	2,262	87	236	1,939	523	89	1,285	42	27%	66%
National Archives	3,022	303	266	2,453	1,283	423	675	72	52%	28%
National Savings and Investments	134	2	37	95	84	5	6	0	88%	6%
Office for National Statistics	292	3	102	187	153	13	21	0	82%	11%
Office for Standards in Education	829	93	66	670	142	121	406	1	21%	61%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	410	50	64	296	166	77	53	0	56%	18%
Office of Rail Regulation	157	37	26	94	41	40	13	0	44%	14%
Ordnance Survey	64	0	17	47	30	4	13	0	64%	28%
Royal Mint	33	1	2	30	11	1	17	1	37%	57%
Rural Payments Agency	520	153	28	339	188	56	95	0	55%	28%
Serious Fraud Office	94	12	6	76	29	22	25	0	38%	33%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	369	4	72	293	139	72	82	0	47%	28%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	304	0	92	212	162	38	12	0	76%	6%

Notes

Please see the 'Notes on the Tables' section for important information about consistency between tables in this report.

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - Percentages were not shown if the number of qualifying requests was 20 or fewer prior to Q1 2014.

1 - Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made.

2 - "Advice and Assistance" would be provided to a requester when the government body "reasonably requires further information in order to identify and locate the information requested". See section 1(3) of the Freedom of Information Act for further details.

3 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it is possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the requested information. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance (see note above) since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

4 - "Fully withheld" requests include those which were refused because it was estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

5 - This table counts as "resolvable" all requests where a response has not yet been provided. This assumption is likely to be generally true but may be incorrect in a small number of cases. It should also be noted that requests where a response has not yet been provided are more likely to involve considerations which are complex and finely balanced. As a result, it cannot be assumed that these requests will be granted and refused in the same proportions as "resolvable" requests in general.

TABLE 8

Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 January 2012 (see footnote)

Government body	2012				2013				2014			
	Q1: Jan-Mar	Q2: Apr-Jun	Q3: Jul-Sep	Q4: Oct-Dec	Q1: Jan-Mar	Q2: Apr-Jun	Q3: Jul-Sep	Q4: Oct-Dec	Q1: Jan-Mar	Q2: Apr-Jun	Q3: Jul-Sep	Q4: Oct-Dec
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	53%	53%	53%	55%	55%	53%	55%	53%	51%	50%	49%	47%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	53%	61%	57%	58%	52%	53%	54%	56%	53%	51%	50%	49%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	57%	54%	53%	52%	54%	54%	50%	52%	46%	49%	47%	45%
Departments of State												
Attorney General's Office	*	29%	*	*	53%	*	36%	57%	73%	50%	29%	7%
Cabinet Office #	28%	19%	29%	33%	23%	24%	25%	20%	21%	22%	29%	16%
Communities and Local Government	70%	71%	62%	72%	61%	69%	63%	64%	65%	58%	53%	48%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	42%	42%	46%	38%	43%	35%	37%	39%	34%	31%	31%	29%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	72%	82%	62%	66%	44%	64%	68%	59%	58%	60%	71%	47%
Department for Education #	66%	67%	63%	63%	67%	65%	71%	67%	53%	59%	68%	66%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	62%	59%	59%	76%	53%	69%	58%	58%	72%	68%	48%	34%
Department for International Development	75%	67%	69%	74%	74%	58%	69%	60%	62%	60%	60%	56%
Department for Transport #	77%	69%	75%	74%	75%	74%	78%	75%	76%	77%	77%	77%
Department for Work and Pensions #	65%	65%	69%	68%	76%	71%	66%	69%	69%	65%	65%	63%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	36%	40%	33%	41%	42%	37%	49%	55%	48%	44%	38%	24%
Department of Health	30%	42%	46%	58%	57%	54%	59%	44%	58%	42%	19%	37%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	26%	20%	34%	32%	23%	26%	29%	37%	26%	31%	27%	30%
HM Treasury #	37%	36%	26%	46%	44%	46%	50%	41%	(r) 38%	54%	(r) 47%	42%
Home Office #	49%	44%	47%	47%	37%	40%	42%	43%	42%	37%	38%	38%
Ministry of Defence #	65%	66%	65%	60%	62%	64%	61%	63%	62%	52%	52%	52%
Ministry of Justice #	37%	40%	38%	39%	38%	34%	39%	41%	34%	36%	(r) 37%	34%
Northern Ireland Office	52%	50%	60%	59%	48%	*	74%	*	43%	40%	56%	50%
Scotland Office	77%	78%	*	72%	70%	77%	86%	*	76%	74%	88%	94%
UK Export Finance	68%	*	*	*	56%	52%	79%	*	81%	50%	60%	38%
Wales Office	*	*	42%	*	96%	95%	73%	*	81%	57%	50%	100%

TABLE 8 continued

Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 January 2012 (see footnote)

Government body	2012				2013				2014			
	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:	Q1:	Q2:	Q3:	Q4:
	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Charity Commission	71%	61%	49%	49%	53%	45%	39%	50%	48%	45%	47%	50%
Competition and Markets Authority	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19%	48%	48%
Crown Prosecution Service	44%	55%	46%	43%	46%	47%	46%	43%	35%	36%	34%	38%
Debt Management Office	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	78%	69%	50%	63%
Food Standards Agency	48%	50%	55%	48%	38%	39%	62%	33%	49%	67%	68%	55%
Health and Safety Executive	56%	52%	49%	50%	48%	51%	50%	47%	44%	53%	52%	52%
HM Land Registry	92%	97%	96%	95%	86%	91%	95%	86%	88%	67%	75%	91%
HM Revenue and Customs	40%	45%	35%	36%	38%	29%	36%	37%	34%	27%	31%	18%
National Archives	61%	54%	57%	68%	63%	56%	56%	51%	50%	59%	45%	51%
National Savings and Investments	70%	91%	*	*	86%	*	95%	90%	100%	83%	90%	75%
Office for National Statistics	72%	97%	83%	94%	92%	89%	87%	83%	78%	84%	82%	83%
Office for Standards in Education	46%	42%	37%	40%	32%	30%	27%	25%	19%	22%	30%	20%
Office of Fair Trading †	25%	27%	29%	28%	32%	35%	30%	44%	67%	-	-	-
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	61%	51%	59%	79%	68%	81%	81%	75%	72%	59%	43%	49%
Office of Rail Regulation	54%	59%	50%	*	50%	42%	28%	38%	41%	35%	48%	50%
Ordnance Survey	*	*	*	*	*	*	67%	*	67%	60%	78%	50%
Royal Mint	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	46%	14%	17%	75%
Rural Payments Agency	73%	78%	75%	56%	74%	78%	61%	61%	59%	68%	51%	46%
Serious Fraud Office	*	66%	*	50%	57%	31%	44%	*	37%	44%	36%	43%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	46%	33%	43%	34%	32%	38%	50%	53%	49%	50%	48%	41%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	12%	*	*	59%	73%	86%	89%	80%	89%	68%	86%	48%

- Figures supplied by these departments count requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - Percentages were not shown if the number of qualifying requests was 20 or fewer prior to Q1 2014.

† - Government body changed during previous monitoring period, see Annex C

Notes

"Resolvable requests" are all those where it would have been possible to provide a substantive response. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance to the requester, since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

TABLE 9

Statutory reasons given by monitored bodies for fully withholding non-routine information requested during 2014

Government body	Total "resolvable" requests ¹	Total requests where information was fully withheld	Reason for fully withholding information			
			Vexatious FoI request ²	Repeated FoI request ²	Cost of response would exceed cost limit ³	Information is exempt / excepted ⁴
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	34,623	11,558	174	143	4,838	6,403
TOTAL for Departments of State only	23,029	7,612	149	126	3,984	3,353
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	11,594	3,946	25	17	854	3,050
Departments of State						
Attorney General's Office	76	44	0	0	14	30
Cabinet Office #	985	615	25	0	249	341
Communities and Local Government	591	135	5	0	46	84
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	732	266	0	1	185	80
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	328	88	0	0	63	25
Department for Education #	1,307	347	5	0	207	135
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	620	100	2	1	7	90
Department for International Development	343	97	1	0	78	18
Department for Transport #	2,205	314	10	10	99	195
Department for Work and Pensions #	4,336	1,187	20	35	468	664
Department of Energy and Climate Change	507	179	2	4	80	93
Department of Health	1,048	431	8	0	237	186
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	824	258	10	16	117	115
HM Treasury #	861	320	3	0	135	182
Home Office #	2,017	837	24	12	480	321
Ministry of Defence #	2,628	724	21	33	458	212
Ministry of Justice #	3,323	1,605	13	13	1,026	553
Northern Ireland Office	91	36	0	0	13	23
Scotland Office	81	9	0	1	8	0
UK Export Finance	82	13	0	0	9	4
Wales Office	44	7	0	0	5	2

TABLE 9 continued

Statutory reasons given by monitored bodies for fully withholding non-routine information requested during 2014

Government body	Total "resolvable" requests ¹	Total requests where information was fully withheld	Reason for fully withholding information			
			Vexatious FoI request ²	Repeated FoI request ²	Cost of response would exceed cost limit ³	Information is exempt / excepted ⁴
Other bodies included in monitoring						
Charity Commission	469	97	1	1	35	60
Competition and Markets Authority	68	22	0	0	3	19
Crown Prosecution Service	576	319	0	2	177	140
Debt Management Office	40	2	0	0	0	2
Food Standards Agency	128	12	0	0	3	9
Health and Safety Executive	3,233	778	1	3	7	767
HM Land Registry	349	13	1	0	0	12
HM Revenue and Customs	1,939	1,285	7	10	532	736
National Archives	2,453	675	1	0	8	666
National Savings and Investments	95	6	0	0	4	2
Office for National Statistics	187	21	0	0	4	17
Office for Standards in Education	670	406	5	1	36	364
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	296	53	3	0	11	39
Office of Rail Regulation	94	13	1	0	1	11
Ordnance Survey	47	13	0	0	0	13
Royal Mint	30	17	0	0	0	17
Rural Payments Agency	339	95	3	0	23	69
Serious Fraud Office	76	25	0	0	6	19
Treasury Solicitor's Department	293	82	2	0	0	80
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	212	12	0	0	4	8

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

1 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it would have been possible to provide a substantive response. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance (see note above) since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

2 - Where a request for information is vexatious or repeated, public authorities are not obliged to release the information being sought. See Section 14 of the FOI Act.

3 - Section 12 of the FOI Act states that public authorities are not obliged to release information where the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. This limit is set in secondary legislation at £600 for central government departments.

4 - In these cases, the requested information was deemed to fall in one or more of the categories of exempt information ("exemptions") listed in Part II of the FOI Act, or under one of the corresponding "exceptions to the duty to disclose environmental information" in Part 3 of the EIRs.

TABLE 10
Exemptions (FO) and exceptions (EIRs) applied by monitored bodies when withholding non-routine information requested during 2014

Government body	Total requests where one or more exemptions / exceptions were applied ¹	Exemptions listed in Part 2 ³ of the FOI Act																						
		S.22 - Information intended for future publication	S. 22A - Research intended for future publication	S.23 - Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters	S.24 - National security	S.26 - Defence	S.27 - International relations	S.28 - Relations within the United Kingdom	S.29 - The economy	S.30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities	S.31 - Law enforcement	S.32 - Court records, etc.	S.33 - Audit functions	S.34 - Parliamentary privilege	S.35 - Formulation of Government policy, etc.	S.36 - Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs	S.37 - Communications with Her Majesty, etc. and honours	S.38 - Health and Safety	S.40 - Personal information	S.41 - Information provided in confidence	S.42 - Legal professional privilege	S.43 - Commercial interests	S.44 - Prohibitions on disclosure	All EIR exemptions
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	11,430	886	1	376	278	114	425	9	68	832	1,042	261	144	1	598	420	87	309	5,231	572	270	945	910	835
TOTAL for Departments of State only	6,297	769	0	317	257	107	362	9	66	64	505	182	6	1	575	378	64	84	2,775	289	175	767	123	612
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	5,133	117	1	59	21	7	63	0	2	768	537	79	138	0	23	42	23	225	2,456	283	95	178	787	223
Departments of State																								
Attorney General's Office	40	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	3	0	0	9	3	2	0	6	0	8	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	448	86	0	62	43	11	45	3	4	1	17	2	3	0	111	12	31	6	93	39	13	66	1	6
Communities and Local Government	215	16	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	17	17	1	1	37	9	6	13	0	104
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	292	43	0	10	7	0	22	0	2	5	16	0	0	0	36	38	0	4	178	35	14	94	2	21
Department for Education #	290	23	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	9	4	0	0	13	73	0	1	134	19	4	49	1	6
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	68	13	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	9	3	1	0	25	3	3	8	0	8
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	205	7	0	1	8	0	1	0	0	3	9	0	0	0	5	4	2	2	25	4	2	10	1	140
Department for International Development	54	12	0	3	2	0	11	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	1	0	3	20	4	5	7	0	2
Department for Transport #	379	38	0	3	6	0	6	0	0	8	54	0	0	0	27	40	2	6	138	31	14	65	45	22
Department for Work and Pensions #	878	123	0	1	4	0	3	0	26	17	10	7	1	0	44	39	0	1	558	27	5	78	21	0
Department of Energy and Climate Change	208	22	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	16	6	0	2	55	1	1	21	1	252
Department of Health	412	27	0	1	3	1	8	1	6	3	7	1	1	0	53	6	2	0	199	9	18	63	3	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	402	21	0	85	36	3	147	4	1	3	26	1	0	0	50	12	15	13	219	51	23	43	0	13
HM Treasury #	282	22	0	4	1	0	10	0	24	0	24	0	0	0	98	24	2	2	79	16	10	42	0	15
Home Office #	628	71	0	83	82	1	46	1	1	3	189	6	1	1	30	77	4	14	169	13	15	67	7	0
Ministry of Defence #	535	37	0	50	47	91	54	0	2	17	42	5	0	0	17	14	1	22	270	14	10	64	10	23
Ministry of Justice #	892	195	0	6	2	0	5	0	0	0	57	153	0	0	22	4	0	7	542	12	22	71	31	0
Northern Ireland Office	36	9	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	4	1	0	10	0	2	1	0	0
Scotland Office	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UK Export Finance	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	15	2	0	4	0	0
Wales Office	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0

TABLE 10 continued
Exemptions (FOI) and exceptions (EIRs) applied by monitored bodies when withholding non-routine information requested during 2014

Government body	Total requests where one or more exemptions / exceptions were applied ¹	Exemptions listed in Part 2 ³ of the FoI Act																						
		S.22 - Information intended for future publication	S. 22A - Research intended for future publication	S.23 - Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters	S.24 - National security	S.26 - Defence	S.27 - International relations	S.28 - Relations within the United Kingdom	S.29 - The economy	S.30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities	S.31 - Law enforcement	S.32 - Court records, etc.	S.33 - Audit functions	S.34 - Parliamentary privilege	S.35 - Formulation of Government policy, etc.	S.36 - Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs	S.37 - Communications with Her Majesty, etc. and honours	S.38 - Health and Safety	S.40 - Personal information	S.41 - Information provided in confidence	S.42 - Legal professional privilege	S.43 - Commercial interests	S.44 - Prohibitions on disclosure	All EIR exemptions
Other bodies included in monitoring																								
Charity Commission	210	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	33	0	0	0	2	0	0	150	41	15	7	0	1
Competition and Markets Authority	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	1	3	1	26	0
Crown Prosecution Service	190	7	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	55	9	16	0	0	1	7	0	3	156	0	34	8	0	0
Debt Management Office	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	2	0	0
Food Standards Agency	46	7	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	19	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	13	1	0	9	1	5
Health and Safety Executive	1,567	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	669	46	15	0	0	0	4	0	1	702	95	10	5	1	62
HM Land Registry	67	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	52	4	1	4	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	825	22	0	2	1	0	7	0	0	0	47	0	0	0	13	7	0	1	51	3	8	13	671	3
National Archives	1,089	0	0	52	13	0	52	0	0	0	42	5	0	0	4	5	23	207	957	50	3	1	0	0
National Savings and Investments	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	0
Office for National Statistics	30	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	0	4	16	0
Office for Standards in Education	485	57	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	220	3	138	0	0	1	0	11	166	35	2	67	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	116	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5	2	6	36	38
Office of Rail Regulation	51	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	18	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	37	0	1	4	4	0
Ordnance Survey	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	7	0	1	6	0	0
Royal Mint	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	125	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	14	0	0	2	0	108
Serious Fraud Office	41	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	17	14	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	11	0	1	6	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	152	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	78	47	12	8	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	46	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	19	0	2	10	32	6

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

1 - A single request can be subject to more than one exemption. Therefore, the total number of individual exemptions used may be greater than the number of requests to which exemptions were applied.

2 - "Exemptions" refers to the provisions in Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act (and the similar "exceptions" in Part 3 of the Environmental Information Regulations) which classify certain types of information as exempt from the release obligations. More than one exemption or exception can apply to a single information request.

3 - The exemption described in section 21 of the Act ("Information accessible ... by other means") is not listed here, because requests falling under this exemption do not meet the formal definition of a "non-routine" request and therefore are not counted in these monitoring statistics.

4 - The exemption listed at section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act ("Environmental Information") effectively states that information requests which fall within the scope of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) should be handled as these Regulations specify. Requests for environmental information which are refused should apply one of the EIR exceptions listed above.

TABLE 11

Section 21 exemptions¹ applied by monitored bodies when dealing with routine information requests received from 1 October - 31 December 2014

Government body	Number of requests where a Section 21 exemption was applied	Timeliness of response		Percentage of requests meeting 20-day deadline
		20-day deadline met	Late response (i.e. 20-day deadline missed)	
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	557	511	46	92%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	434	390	44	90%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	123	121	2	113%
<i>Departments of State</i>				
Attorney General's Office	2	2	0	100%
Cabinet Office #	32	30	2	94%
Communities and Local Government	12	9	3	75%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	3	3	0	100%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	2	2	0	100%
Department for Education	20	16	4	80%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	6	4	2	67%
Department for International Development	3	3	0	100%
Department for Transport #	34	34	0	100%
Department for Work and Pensions #	19	19	0	100%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	14	14	0	100%
Department of Health	38	38	0	100%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	6	6	0	100%
HM Treasury #	57	55	2	96%
Home Office #	69	58	11	84%
Ministry of Defence #	30	28	2	93%
Ministry of Justice #	78	60	18	77%
Northern Ireland Office	4	4	0	100%
Scotland Office	0	0	0	-
UK Export Finance	0	0	0	-
Wales Office	5	5	0	100%

TABLE 11 Continued

Section 21 exemptions applied by monitored bodies when dealing with routine information requests received from 1 October - 31 December 2014

Government body	Number of requests where a Section 21 exemption was applied	Timeliness of response		Percentage of requests meeting 20-day deadline
		20-day deadline met	Late response (i.e. 20-day deadline missed)	
Other bodies included in monitoring				
Charity Commission	5	5	0	100%
Competition and Markets Authority	2	2	0	100%
Crown Prosecution Service	1	1	0	100%
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	-
Food Standards Agency	0	0	0	-
Health and Safety Executive	16	16	0	-
HM Land Registry	6	6	0	100%
HM Revenue and Customs	22	21	1	95%
National Archives	0	0	0	-
National Savings and Investments	0	0	0	-
Office for National Statistics	16	16	0	100%
Office for Standards in Education	5	5	0	100%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	16	16	0	100%
Office of Rail Regulation	2	1	1	50%
Ordnance Survey	1	1	0	100%
Royal Mint	0	0	0	-
Rural Payments Agency	2	2	0	100%
Serious Fraud Office	0	0	0	-
Treasury Solicitor's Department	29	29	0	100%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	0	0	0	-

Notes

1 - A section 21 exemption is defined as information available by other means.

2 - These tables cover requests that were exempted either fully or in part under Section 21, where a Section 21 was the only exemption used

3 - Section 21 is an absolute exemption, which means that no consideration of the public interest test is required to withhold information.

- Figures supplied by these bodies count requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C of Bulletin gives full details.

TABLE 12

Section 21 exemptions¹ applied by monitored bodies when dealing with routine information requests received in 2014

Government body	Number of requests where a Section 21 exemption was applied	Exemption status		Percentage of requests fully exempted where S21 was applied ²	Timeliness of response		Percentage of requests meeting 20-day deadline
		Partly Exempted	Fully Exempted		20-day deadline met	Late response (i.e. 20-day deadline missed)	
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	2443	21%	79%	79%	2,257	186	92%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	1933	21%	79%	79%	1,765	168	91%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	510	25%	75%	75%	492	18	96%
Departments of State							
Attorney General's Office	3	0	3	100%	3	0	100%
Cabinet Office #	209	52	157	75%	175	34	84%
Communities and Local Government	52	16	36	69%	38	14	73%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	32	18	14	44%	32	0	100%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	13	8	5	38%	13	0	100%
Department for Education	63	0	63	100%	59	4	94%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	19	0	19	100%	17	2	89%
Department for International Development	13	0	13	100%	13	0	100%
Department for Transport #	115	19	96	83%	112	3	97%
Department for Work and Pensions #	110	75	35	32%	107	3	97%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	62	29	33	53%	62	0	100%
Department of Health ³	209	-	-	-	207	2	99%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	34	18	16	47%	24	10	71%
HM Treasury #	278	0	278	100%	269	9	97%
Home Office #	276	0	276	100%	247	29	89%
Ministry of Defence #	116	32	84	72%	105	11	91%
Ministry of Justice #	305	76	229	75%	258	47	85%
Northern Ireland Office	9	1	8	89%	9	0	100%
Scotland Office	0	0	0	-	0	0	-
UK Export Finance	1	0	1	100%	1	0	100%
Wales Office	14	10	4	29%	14	0	100%

TABLE 12 Continued
Section 21 exemptions applied by monitored bodies when dealing with routine information requests received in 2014

Government body	Number of requests where a Section 21 exemption was applied	Exemption status		Percentage of requests fully exempted where S21 was applied ²	Timeliness of response		Percentage of requests meeting 20-day deadline	
		Partly Exempted	Fully Exempted		20-day deadline met	Late response (i.e. 20-day deadline missed)		
Other bodies included in monitoring								
Charity Commission	21	3	18	86%	21	0	100%	
Competition and Markets Authority	11	8	3	27%	11	0	100%	
Crown Prosecution Service	6	2	4	67%	6	0	100%	
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	
Food Standards Agency	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	
Health and Safety Executive ³	54	-	-	-	54	0	-	
HM Land Registry	40	3	37	93%	40	0	100%	
HM Revenue and Customs ³	124	-	-	-	110	14	89%	
National Archives	7	3	4	57%	6	1	86%	
National Savings and Investments	6	1	5	83%	6	0	100%	
Office for National Statistics	46	0	46	100%	46	0	100%	
Office for Standards in Education	19	5	14	74%	17	2	89%	
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	29	29	0	0%	29	0	100%	
Office of Rail Regulation	8	3	5	63%	7	1	88%	
Ordnance Survey	2	1	1	50%	2	0	100%	
Royal Mint	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	
Rural Payments Agency	3	0	3	100%	3	0	100%	
Serious Fraud Office	2	1	1	50%	2	0	100%	
Treasury Solicitor's Department	132	24	108	82%	132	0	100%	
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	

Notes

1 - A section 21 exemption is defined as information available by other means.

2 - As a proportion of total section 21 requests, where a section 21 exemption was applied.

3 - These departments were unable to provide data on whether the request was fully or partially exempted under S21.

4 - These tables cover requests that were exempted either fully or in part under Section 21, where a Section 21 was the only exemption used

5 - Section 21 is an absolute exemption, which means that no consideration of the public interest test is required to withhold information.

6 - S21 exemptions reported in Q1 2014 for HMT was double counted due to a data entry error. As a result, data from quarterly reports will not sum to this total.

- Figures supplied by these bodies count requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C of Bulletin gives full details.

TABLE 13

Outcomes of Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014, where the requested information was initially withheld

Government body	Total Internal Reviews	Internal Reviews with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of Internal Reviews with known outcome, number where initial handling of request was:			Percentage of Internal Reviews where initial handling was upheld in full
			Upheld in full	Upheld in part	Overturned	
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	2,615	2,417	1,906	316	195	79%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	2,145	1,990	1,556	258	176	78%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	470	427	350	58	19	82%
Departments of State						
Attorney General's Office	13	13	13	0	0	100%
Cabinet Office #	217	210	190	16	4	90%
Communities and Local Government	33	25	21	4	0	84%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	48	44	36	6	2	82%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	17	17	16	1	0	94%
Department for Education #	74	73	63	6	4	86%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	45	36	28	3	5	78%
Department for International Development	19	16	15	1	0	94%
Department for Transport #	94	92	63	13	16	68%
Department for Work and Pensions #	628	607	476	66	65	78%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	47	36	30	5	1	83%
Department of Health	68	68	56	9	3	82%
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	90	75	65	8	2	87%
HM Treasury #	77	39	36	1	2	92%
Home Office #	266	252	192	41	19	76%
Ministry of Defence #	86	79	32	29	18	41%
Ministry of Justice #	306	293	209	49	35	71%
Northern Ireland Office	9	8	8	0	0	100%
Scotland Office	4	4	4	0	0	100%
UK Export Finance	3	2	2	0	0	100%
Wales Office	1	1	1	0	0	100%

TABLE 13 continued

Outcomes of Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2013, where the requested information was initially withheld

Government body	Total Internal Reviews	Internal Reviews with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of Internal Reviews with known outcome, number where initial handling of request was:			Percentage of Internal Reviews where initial handling was upheld in full
			Upheld in full	Upheld in part	Overturned	
Other bodies included in monitoring						
Charity Commission	13	11	4	6	1	36%
Competition and Markets Authority	2	2	2	0	0	100%
Crown Prosecution Service	60	53	45	7	1	85%
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	-
Food Standards Agency	3	3	2	1	0	67%
Health and Safety Executive	39	34	21	12	1	62%
HM Land Registry	14	14	9	2	3	64%
HM Revenue and Customs	175	156	138	12	6	88%
National Archives	50	50	38	9	3	76%
National Savings and Investments	2	2	1	1	0	50%
Office for National Statistics	6	4	4	0	0	100%
Office for Standards in Education	39	34	31	2	1	91%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	12	12	12	0	0	100%
Office of Rail Regulation	1	1	0	1	0	0%
Ordnance Survey	0	0	0	0	0	-
Royal Mint	3	3	2	1	0	67%
Rural Payments Agency	19	19	15	1	3	79%
Serious Fraud Office	10	8	5	3	0	63%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	22	21	21	0	0	100%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	0	0	0	0	0	-

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

1 - Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an "Internal Review" if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether to release requested information. This process should be a fair and impartial review of the initial decision. Requesters who are still not content with the outcome of the Internal Review can make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner if they wish (see Section 50 of the FOI Act).

TABLE 14

Duration of completed Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014, where the requested information was initially withheld

Government body	Total Internal Reviews ²	Internal Reviews with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of completed Internal Reviews, number where the duration of the review period was:						
			10 days or less	Between 11 and 20 days	Between 21 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
TOTAL for all monitored bodies ²	2,615	2,417	315	1,194	537	199	80	46	46
As a percentage of total requests received ³	5.6%	5.2%	0.7%	2.6%	1.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	2,145	1,990	273	1,009	396	161	68	40	43
As a percentage of total requests received ⁴	6.9%	6.4%	0.9%	3.3%	1.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies ²	470	427	42	185	141	38	12	6	3
As a percentage of total requests received ³	3.0%	2.7%	0.3%	1.2%	0.9%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Departments of State									
Attorney General's Office	13	13	0	0	9	4	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	217	210	15	47	79	39	20	6	4
Communities and Local Government	33	25	0	20	4	1	0	0	0
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	48	44	2	30	9	1	0	0	2
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	17	17	0	9	5	2	1	0	0
Department for Education #	74	73	0	44	20	8	0	1	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	45	36	3	13	10	6	2	1	1
Department for International Development	19	16	7	8	1	0	0	0	0
Department for Transport #	94	92	9	70	11	2	0	0	0
Department for Work and Pensions #	628	607	193	291	78	19	14	6	6
Department of Energy and Climate Change	47	36	0	17	11	7	1	0	0
Department of Health	68	68	10	40	18	0	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	90	75	3	25	25	20	0	0	2
HM Treasury #	77	39	7	3	7	5	4	6	7
Home Office #	266	252	16	117	50	25	14	12	18
Ministry of Defence #	86	79	7	35	26	7	1	1	2
Ministry of Justice #	306	293	0	236	28	11	11	7	0
Northern Ireland Office	9	8	0	2	4	1	0	0	1
Scotland Office	4	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
UK Export Finance	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Wales Office	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 14 continued

Duration of completed Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014, where the requested information was initially withheld

Government body	Total Internal Reviews	Internal Reviews with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of completed Internal Reviews, number where the duration of the review period was:						
			10 days or less	Between 11 and 20 days	Between 21 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
Other bodies included in monitoring									
Charity Commission	13	11	0	10	1	0	0	0	0
Competition and Markets Authority	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	60	53	2	25	15	6	2	1	2
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Executive	39	34	1	24	8	0	1	0	0
HM Land Registry	14	14	7	5	2	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	175	156	13	56	58	19	5	4	1
National Archives	50	50	4	16	23	6	1	0	0
National Savings and Investments	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	6	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	39	34	0	16	17	1	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	12	12	6	6	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Ordnance Survey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	3	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	19	19	1	1	12	4	1	0	0
Serious Fraud Office	10	8	0	3	2	2	1	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	22	21	7	12	1	0	1	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

1 - Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an "Internal Review" if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether to release requested information. This process should be a fair and impartial review of the initial decision. Requesters who are still not content with the outcome of the Internal Review can make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner if they wish (see Section 50 of the FOI Act).

2 - The totals shown do not include those monitored bodies who were unable to provide information on Internal Review durations (see footnote 5), therefore some do not equal those shown in Table 11.

3 - Excluding "on-hold" and "lapsed" requests, and all requests received by those monitored bodies which were not able to provide data on Internal Review durations in 2012.

4 - Excluding "on-hold" and "lapsed" requests.

TABLE 15

Duration of Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies in 2013, where the requested information was initially withheld, and which were reported as not completed* in the 2013 end-year monitoring statistics

Government body	Internal Reviews with unknown outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring in 2013) ²	Of completed Internal Reviews, number where the duration of the review period was:						
		10 days or less	Between 11 and 20 days	Between 21 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
TOTAL for all monitored bodies ²	153	5	14	20	20	9	6	54
TOTAL for Departments of State only	120	5	9	9	19	4	5	44
TOTAL for other monitored bodies ²	33	0	5	11	1	5	1	10
Departments of State								
Attorney General's Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	12	0	0	3	5	1	0	3
Communities and Local Government	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Department for Education #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department for International Development	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Department for Transport #	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Department for Work and Pensions #	11	0	0	2	3	1	3	2
Department of Energy and Climate Change	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department of Health	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	22	0	3	3	7	0	0	9
HM Treasury #	13	2	1	0	0	0	1	9
Home Office ³ #	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Defence #	19	0	0	0	0	2	0	17
Ministry of Justice #	8	3	1	0	3	0	0	1
Northern Ireland Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland Office	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
UK Export Finance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wales Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 15 continued

Duration of Internal Reviews¹ of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies in 2013, where the requested information was initially withheld, and which were reported as not completed* in the 2013 end-year monitoring statistics

Government body	Internal Reviews with unknown outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring 2013) ²	Of completed Internal Reviews, number where the duration of the review period was:						
		10 days or less	Between 11 and 20 days	Between 21 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
Other bodies included in monitoring								
Charity Commission	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Competition and Markets Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Executive	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
HM Land Registry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	18	0	3	7	1	5	1	1
National Archives	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
National Savings and Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious Fraud Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - These figures relate to those reported as being 'in progress' at the end of the reporting period last year. They are not representative of the timeliness of all Internal Reviews completed by monitored bodies. Statistics on this are available in table 12

1 - Applicants are able to ask a public authority for an "Internal Review" if they are not content with the public authority's initial decision on whether to release requested information. This process should be a fair and impartial review of the initial decision. Requesters who are still not content with the outcome of the Internal Review can make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner if they wish (see Section 50 of the FOI Act).

2 - The totals shown include those monitored bodies who are unable to provide information on Internal Review durations (see footnote 3)

3 - The Home Office did not provide data on non-completed Internal Review durations from 2013 end-year monitoring statistics.

TABLE 16

Outcomes of appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)¹ about the handling of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014

Government body	Total ICO Appeals	ICO Appeals with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of ICO Appeals with known outcome, number where initial handling of request was:		
			Upheld in full	Upheld in part	Overtaken
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	395	263	213	19	31
TOTAL for Departments of State only	320	222	176	17	29
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	75	41	37	2	2
<i>Departments of State</i>					
Attorney General's Office	1	1	1	0	0
Cabinet Office #	51	33	28	2	3
Communities and Local Government	6	2	2	0	0
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	6	3	2	0	1
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	2	1	1	0	0
Department for Education #	14	13	8	1	4
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	14	9	7	2	0
Department for International Development	2	1	1	0	0
Department for Transport #	14	12	6	1	5
Department for Work and Pensions #	56	43	40	1	2
Department of Energy and Climate Change	10	3	2	1	0
Department of Health	8	8	6	0	2
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	14	9	9	0	0
HM Treasury #	6	4	3	1	0
Home Office #	50	38	29	3	6
Ministry of Defence #	5	3	3	0	0
Ministry of Justice #	60	38	27	5	6
Northern Ireland Office	1	1	1	0	0
Scotland Office	0	0	0	0	0
UK Export Finance	0	0	0	0	0
Wales Office	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 16 continued

Outcomes of appeals to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)¹ about the handling of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014

Government body	Total ICO Appeals	ICO Appeals with known outcome (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of ICO Appeals with known outcome, number where initial handling of request was:		
			Upheld in full	Upheld in part	Overtured
Other bodies included in monitoring					
Charity Commission	4	1	1	0	0
Competition and Markets Authority	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	6	2	2	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	1	1	1	0	0
Health and Safety Executive	7	3	1	0	2
HM Land Registry	5	2	2	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	23	13	13	0	0
National Archives	10	6	6	0	0
National Savings and Investments	1	1	1	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	6	4	3	1	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	2	2	2	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	2	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	2	2	1	1	0
Serious Fraud Office	1	0	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	3	2	2	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	2	2	2	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

1 - If an applicant is not satisfied with the outcome of a public authority's "Internal Review" of the handling of their information request, they may make a formal appeal to the Information Commissioner. If the Commissioner decides that the public authority has not complied with the FOI Act, he may issue a "decision notice" setting out the steps to be taken in order to achieve compliance.

TABLE 17

Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest¹ which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014

Government body	Total requests extended ²	Extended requests processed in full (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of extended requests processed in full, number where the extension to the deadline was:									
			5 days or less	Between 6 and 10 days	Between 11 and 15 days	Between 16 and 20 days	Between 21 and 30 days	Between 31 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	2,036	1,806	141	173	202	472	198	173	180	84	35	37
As a percentage of total requests received ³	4.9%	4.7%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	1.2%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	1,413	1,253	116	113	159	407	146	114	100	39	26	33
As a percentage of total requests received ⁴	4.6%	4.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	1.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	623	553	25	60	43	65	52	59	80	45	9	4
As a percentage of total requests received ³	5.9%	7.3%	0.3%	0.8%	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%
Departments of State												
Attorney General's Office	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	161	141	28	20	25	33	13	5	7	5	3	2
Communities and Local Government	42	35	0	0	0	1	4	9	12	5	3	1
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	76	68	3	5	1	46	4	3	4	1	1	0
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	23	17	0	2	4	8	2	1	0	0	0	0
Department for Education #	58	56	2	7	12	15	12	4	3	0	1	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	71	57	6	8	8	13	7	8	4	1	0	2
Department for International Development	18	13	1	3	0	3	1	3	2	0	0	0
Department for Transport #	67	63	15	3	10	12	12	3	3	2	3	0
Department for Work and Pensions #	52	44	4	7	8	14	4	3	3	1	0	0
Department of Energy and Climate Change	58	49	1	0	4	39	0	4	1	0	0	0
Department of Health	15	15	0	0	0	9	3	1	2	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	251	224	7	16	14	74	14	36	27	13	7	16
HM Treasury #	115	87	5	2	8	17	19	12	12	3	3	6
Home Office #	260	255	20	22	52	79	34	19	16	7	3	3
Ministry of Defence #	117	102	7	14	11	43	17	2	2	1	2	3
Ministry of Justice #	25	25	17	3	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Office	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland Office	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UK Export Finance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wales Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 17 continued

Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest¹ which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2014

Government body	Total requests extended ²	Extended requests processed in full (at time of end-of-year monitoring)	Of extended requests processed in full, number where the extension to the deadline was:									
			5 days or less	Between 6 and 10 days	Between 11 and 15 days	Between 16 and 20 days	Between 21 and 30 days	Between 31 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
Other bodies included in monitoring												
Charity Commission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Competition and Markets Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	10	10	0	4	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	13	13	0	4	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and Safety Executive ⁵	114	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HM Land Registry	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	5	5	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
National Archives	404	338	19	22	32	38	38	55	78	44	9	3
National Savings and Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	22	21	3	10	1	1	4	1	1	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	15	15	3	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	15	15	0	5	2	1	4	1	1	1	0	0
Ordnance Survey	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	9	9	0	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious Fraud Office	8	8	0	0	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

1 - Public authorities are allowed to extend the standard deadline for responding to an information request (normally 20 working days) to allow for the consideration of public interest issues. See Section 10(2) of the FOI Act.

2 - There are some small differences between the number of PIT extensions shown above and in Table 4. Please see the Notes on the Tables section regarding the consistency between tables in this report. The totals shown do not include those monitored bodies who were unable to provide information on PIT extension durations (see footnote 5).

3 - Excluding "on-hold" and "lapsed" requests, and all requests received by those other monitored bodies which were not able to provide data on PIT extension durations in 2014 (see footnote 5).

4 - Excluding "on-hold" and "lapsed" cases.

5 - The Health and Safety Executive were not able to provide timeliness data on PIT extension durations in 2014

TABLE 18

Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest¹ which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2013, and which were reported as not completed* in the 2013 end-year monitoring statistics

Government body	Uncompleted extended requests (at time of end-of-year monitoring 2013) ²	Of extended requests processed in full, number where the extension to the deadline was:									
		5 days or less	Between 6 and 10 days	Between 11 and 15 days	Between 16 and 20 days	Between 21 and 30 days	Between 31 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	188	1	3	7	11	13	15	26	13	10	89
TOTAL for Departments of State only	150	1	3	1	6	7	12	18	8	6	88
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	38	0	0	6	5	6	3	8	5	4	1
Departments of State											
Attorney General's Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cabinet Office #	17	1	2	0	2	2	1	2	0	2	5
Communities and Local Government	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	2
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills #	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Department for Education #	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department for International Development	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Department for Transport #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Department for Work and Pensions #	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Department of Energy and Climate Change	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
Department of Health	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	36	0	0	0	2	1	4	3	1	2	23
HM Treasury #	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
Home Office #	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
Ministry of Defence #	29	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	3	1	19
Ministry of Justice #	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Ireland Office	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Scotland Office	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
UK Export Finance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wales Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TABLE 18 continued

Duration of deadline extensions to allow for the consideration of Public Interest¹ which were applied to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies during 2013, and which were reported as not completed* in the 2013 end-year monitoring statistics

Government body	Uncompleted extended requests (at time of end-of-year monitoring 2013) ²	Of extended requests processed in full, number where the extension to the deadline was:									
		5 days or less	Between 6 and 10 days	Between 11 and 15 days	Between 16 and 20 days	Between 21 and 30 days	Between 31 and 40 days	Between 41 and 60 days	Between 61 and 80 days	Between 81 and 100 days	More than 100 days
Other bodies included in monitoring											
Charity Commission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Competition and Markets Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crown Prosecution Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Health and Safety Executive	10	0	0	4	3	1	0	2	0	0	0
HM Land Registry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
National Archives	21	0	0	2	2	2	3	6	3	3	0
National Savings and Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Office of Rail Regulation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ordnance Survey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Royal Mint	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Serious Fraud Office	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well as those received by the departments themselves. Annex C gives full details.

* - These figures relate to those reported as being 'in progress' at the end of the reporting period last year. They are not representative of the timeliness of all public interest tests completed by monitored bodies. Statistics on this are available in table 15

1 - Public authorities are allowed to extend the standard deadline for responding to an information request (normally 20 working days) to allow for the consideration of public interest issues. See Section 10(2) of the FOI Act.

2 - The totals shown do not include those monitored bodies who were unable to provide information on PIT extension durations (see footnote 3).

Annex B – Important note on the scope and consistency of the statistics

Defining the scope of Freedom of Information monitoring

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) states that (subject to certain conditions):

“Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and

(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him”

Regulation 5 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 states that (subject to certain conditions):

“A public authority that holds environmental information shall make it available on request.”

Following their introduction on 1 January 2005, the above provisions apply to all relevant requests for information made to public authorities, no matter how routine and straightforward they may be.

Government departments supply large amounts of information, both on request and proactively, as an established and routine part of their business. This includes information released in the form of leaflets, correspondence exchanges, reports and other published material, and through websites and departmental FOI Publication Schemes. All information released on request is covered by the Freedom of Information Act. However, it would be both uninformative and fundamentally unfeasible to count all such activity in departmental Freedom of Information monitoring returns.

The statistics in this bulletin therefore relate only to **the “non-routine” information requests** that government departments have received. Essentially, this means that departments’ statistics should only count those requests where:

1. It was necessary to take a considered view on how to handle the request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, and
2. Departmental Freedom of Information officer(s) were informed of the request and logged it in their case management systems.

Defining a request

The full definition of an “information request” for the purposes of inclusion in the Ministry of Justice’s monitoring returns is shown below. This definition was circulated to members of the central government “Freedom of Information Practitioners’ Group” in November 2004.

“[An information request for monitoring purposes is one ...]

1. *Which meets the criteria in section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act and if the request falls under the Environmental Information Regulations it includes requests made in any form or context, including oral requests; **and***
2. *Which is a request for information that is not already reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means; **and***
 - (i) Which results in the release of one or more documents (in any media) or inclusion of extracts of documents in the information released; **or***
 - (ii) Results in information being withheld under an exemption or exception from the right of access (either the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations); **or***
 - (iii) The request is not processed because the department estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit in accordance with section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act; **or***
 - (iv) The request is not processed because the department is relying on the provisions of section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act; **or***
 - (v) Where a search is made for information sought in the request and it is found that none is held.”*

Consistency of the statistics

It is necessary to apply a definition of this sort in order to set a clear boundary to the coverage of our monitoring, and thereby obtain meaningful information from the process. The definition shown above has been widely disseminated to Freedom of Information officers in government and we have tried to ensure that it is applied consistently across all monitored bodies.

However, there is considerable variation in the way these bodies are structured and managed, and in the mechanisms that they have put in place to meet their obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. For example, some bodies operate a centralised Freedom of Information secretariat that co-ordinates responses to all information requests received. Others give a greater degree of autonomy to individual work areas in the handing of information requests.

As a result of these differences, there could be a degree of inconsistency in the way in which bodies have interpreted and applied the definition of an “information request” for monitoring purposes. However, the statistics effectively count those requests which have been dealt with by each monitored body formally under the FOI Act. As such, the statistics report on how many such requests for information each monitored body has received and how they have implemented the Act’s requirements in providing responses. Direct comparisons between the statistics for different monitored bodies can therefore be made on this basis.

In summary, it is important to note that:

- (i) These statistics only cover “non-routine” information requests, and do not give a representative picture of all requests for information received in government.**
- (ii) There is likely to be a degree of inconsistency between monitored bodies’ interpretations of the definition of an “information request” for monitoring purposes. This should be borne in mind when using these statistics.**

Uses of the statistics

The main users of these statistics are departmental FOI teams responsible for coordinating responses and requests, Ministers and officials with responsibility for developing information access policy, and other non-governmental bodies with an interest in the accessibility of government information. The statistics are used to monitor the implementation of the FOI Act by central government, both as a whole and by each individual body included in the figures.

Annex C – Government bodies included in these statistics

The statistics in this bulletin have been derived from monitoring returns completed by Freedom of Information officers in government departments during February 2015. This is the latest set of quarterly Freedom of Information statistics to be published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the government department which now has lead responsibility for the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The first eight bulletins in this series were published by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

The formal monitoring work covers a total of 41 government bodies, including all major departments of state (i.e. Ministerial departments)¹⁰.

The monitored bodies which are not departments of state nonetheless have significant policymaking, regulatory or information-handling functions. As far as possible, this list includes major non-Ministerial Government Departments and excludes Executive Agencies. However, periodic “Machinery of Government” changes make it difficult to define the list precisely.

Coverage within the UK

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Office and the Wales Office are included in these statistics. However, we have not collected formal monitoring data from the National Assembly for Wales, or from the bodies that make up the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies in Scotland. This legislation lies outside the scope of the monitoring work on which this bulletin is based. However, the Scotland Office has been included here because, although it deals with matters relating to Scotland, it is based in England and hence falls under the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 rather than the corresponding Scottish legislation.

The following is a full list of the bodies covered by the monitoring statistics in the fourth quarter of 2014.

¹⁰ The Ministerial departments excluded from this publication are the Office of the Advocate General for Scotland, the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons and the Office of the Leader of the House of Lords.

Departments of State

Attorney General's Office
Cabinet Office
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Department for Communities and Local Government
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Education
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for International Development
Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Department of Health
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
HM Treasury
Home Office
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice
Northern Ireland Office
Scotland Office
UK Export Finance
Wales Office

Other monitored bodies

Charity Commission
Competition and Markets Authority
Crown Prosecution Service
Debt Management Office
Food Standards Agency
Health and Safety Executive and Commission
HM Land Registry
HM Revenue and Customs
National Archives
National Savings and Investments
Office for National Statistics
Office for Standards in Education
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
Office of Rail Regulation
Ordnance Survey
Royal Mint
Rural Payments Agency
Serious Fraud Office
Treasury Solicitor's Department¹¹
Water Services Regulation Authority

¹¹ On 1st April 2015, the Treasury Solicitor's Department changed its name to the Government Legal Department. Reports will continue to use the former name until Q2 2015 monitoring period.

Notes

1. The figures provided by a number of Departments of State count the non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. The departments and agencies affected are shown below.

Cabinet Office

Figures include requests received by the following:

Requests that were addressed to 10 Downing Street
Central Office of Information

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Met Office

Department for Education

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Standards and Testing Agency
Education Funding Agency
Teaching Agency
National College for School Leadership

Department for Transport

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
Highways Agency¹²
Marine and Coastguard Agency
Vehicle Certification Agency

Department for Work and Pensions

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission
Disability and Carers' Service
Jobcentre plus
Pension Service

¹² From 1st April 2015, the Highways Agency is no longer part of the Department for Transport, and is a Government Owned Company.

HM Treasury

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Office for Budget Responsibility.

Home Office

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Criminal Records Bureau
Borders and Immigration Agency
Identity and Passport Service
National Fraud Authority
Government Equalities Office

Ministry of Defence

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

Defence Support Group (DSG),
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (DSTL)
UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO)

Ministry of Justice

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

HM Courts and Tribunals Service
National Offender Management Service
National Probation Service
Legal Aid Agency
Official Solicitor and Public Trustee
Judicial Office
Office of the Public Guardian

Annex D: Explanatory notes

1. The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs;
- are well explained and readily accessible;
- are produced according to sound methods, and
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

2. The statistics in this bulletin relate to the handling by central government bodies of information requests received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). They are collected and published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), with assistance from Freedom of Information officers across central government.
3. The FOI Act received Royal Assent on 30 November 2000. Under the Act, anybody may request information from a public authority which has functions in England, Wales and/or Northern Ireland. The Act confers two statutory rights on applicants:
 - To be told whether or not the public authority holds that information; and if so,
 - To have that information communicated to them.

These statutory rights came into force on 1 January 2005. The MoJ is the lead department responsible for the FOI Act. Further information is available at:

www.justice.gov.uk/information-access-rights/foi-guidance-for-practitioners

4. The (amended) EIRs also came into force on 1 January 2005, to coincide with the FOI Act. They clarify and extend previous rights to environmental information held by public authorities. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the lead department responsible for the EIRs. Further information is available from the Gov.uk website at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-foiaeirs

These statistics are derived from monitoring returns submitted to MoJ in February 2014. They relate to information requests received during 2014 and in particular the period 1 October to 31 December 2014. The collection of monitoring data began on the 21st working day after the last day of this period (i.e. on 29 January 2014), since 20 working days is the statutory deadline for public authorities to respond to information requests under both the FOI Act and the EIRs.

5. Only “non-routine” information requests are counted in these statistics. Important notes on the scope and consistency of these statistics are given in **Annex B**.
6. These statistics cover a total of 41 central government bodies. At the commencement of the Act in January 2005 there were 43 bodies covered by the monitoring statistics, but the precise number can change from time to time due to “Machinery of Government” changes. A full list of the monitored bodies in Q4 2014 is shown in **Annex C**.

Contacts

Press enquires on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act in a particular government body should be addressed to that body's Press Office.

Press enquiries on the contents of this bulletin should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

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Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to:

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Justice Statistics Analytical Services
Ministry of Justice
7th Floor, 102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 6411
Email: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other queries about the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should be directed to:

Information Directorate
Ministry of Justice
6th Floor, 102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 3625
Email: informationrights@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from www.statistics.gov.uk

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statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk