

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Patents by local government district

Date of release: 14 April 2016

Information request:

I am trying to source the information below for three local authority areas in Northern Ireland (Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, Ards & North Down Borough Council, Newry, Mourne & Down District Council)

- the number of national patent applications
- the number of national design applications
- the number of national trademark applications

I am looking for the total including UK and foreign residents. The Irish Patents Office publishes this information in its annual report.

If not available by local authority area, the information for county Down and Armagh would also be helpful.

Information released:

The most recent available dataset we have for patent applications is published online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ipo-patent-data> . It is a dataset of published patents that includes abbreviated applicants' postcodes. You should be able to filter for all the postcodes that match the areas of Northern Ireland you are most interested in, though there may well be some boundary differences between local authorities and postal areas.

Please bear in mind that nearly all patents applied for at the (UK) IPO are first published at around 18 months after filing. This means in effect that geographical information about applications that are still at pre-publication stage are not included in the dataset. The only information relating to applications we are permitted to publish at application stage are a brief title, name of applicant and relevant date(s), as published in our online patents journal: <https://www.gov.uk/check-the-patents-journal> The explanatory notes should explain this and other limitations of the dataset, but you are welcome to contact us if you have any queries that are not covered by the notes.

We also publish a dataset of trade marks at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ipo-trade-mark-data-release> which was last updated 23 February 2015. It's a much bigger file so you will probably need to import it into a suitable analysis package as suggested in the accompanying guidance notes.

There isn't a dataset available for designs because we are currently in the process of developing our first electronic case file management system for designs registration, so compilation of designs data is still some way off.

The latest available data for the whole of Northern Ireland is in our Facts & Figures for 2013 and 2014 (calendar years), at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/patent-trade-mark-design-and-hearing-data-2013-and-2014> . We are in the process of compiling our statistics for 2015, which we hope to publish sometime in June.

[Since published and available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/facts-and-figures-patent-trade-mark-design-and-hearing-data-2015>]