

We were asked:

For each of the past 5 years;

Q1. How many FOIs have you received?

Q2. How many have you responded to within the time period?

Q3. How many were responded to on the final day of the time period?

Q4. How many have you deemed to be over the threshold?

Q5. How many of these were put to internal review?

Q6. And how many times was it found that it was indeed under the threshold at internal review?

We replied:

A1. I am unable to comply with your request under Section 12(1) of the FOIA. The Department has estimated that to locate, retrieve and extract information relevant to this request would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

In order to identify all requests covering the last 5 years that were responded to on the day of the statutory deadline I would be required to conduct an extensive search through all individual case folders. By manually inspecting each request case folder I would need to match the final issue date with the statutory deadline in order to identify and collate information relevant to your request. This task would exceed the appropriate cost limit outlined within section 12(1) of the FOIA.

The law allows us to decline to answer requests under FOIA when we estimate that it would cost us more than £600 to identify, locate, and extract the information that has been asked for. The appropriate cost limit is equivalent to 3½ working days' worth of work, calculated at £25 per hour.

You may wish to refine the scope of your request so to bring it within the appropriate limit, such as narrowing the timeframe of your request. You should note however, that any refined request may still exceed the cost limit.

However I can confirm that the Department's Annual Reports contain useful performance information, including in relation to FOI requests. I have provided a link to the department's annual accounts below:

2012-13 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wales-office-annual-report-published-2011-12>
2011-12 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wales-office-annual-report-and-accounts-2011-to-2012>
2010-11 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wales-office-annual-report-2010-to-2011>
2009-10 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-report-by-the-wales-office-2009>