

FOI Release

Title: Historical IPO data

Date of release: 8 September 2015

Information request:

IPO data, going as far back as possible, of only the following information:

- Patent Number
- Year of application
- Classification, (IPC or otherwise)

We would even be interested in just the set of patent numbers and applications/grant years.

Information released:

We are able to give you partial information, but the main difficulty is one of providing classification information.

The old patent numbering system is available on our archived website, from which you should be able to work out how many patents were granted in each year (or group of years) from 1617.

The URL is:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120612152611/http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/patent/p-about/p-what-is/p-oldnumbers.htm> .

For patents published between 1990 and 2014, classified according to the primary IPC main group, see the dataset at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ipo-patent-data> . Please note the limitations of the data explained in the accompanying notes, e.g. granted patents are indicated by a date in the 'B' publication column.

The only other classification information I can think of comes from the Patent Office Annual Reports, some of which include tables showing how many patents were granted each year for listed technologies, as in the attached example from 1976 and '77. These tables were published from around 1955, but as you are probably aware classification systems have changed from time to time.

The Annual Reports were published on paper prior to 2003, sometimes with the data published separately in our 'Facts and Figures'. They are all available at the British Library. You can enquire at: <http://www.bl.uk/bipc/> .

Alternatively, there may be copies held by the House of Commons Library because each Comptroller's Report was lodged with Parliament from 1884.

We have our own copies too, so please let me know if you have trouble accessing them from elsewhere, if you think they would be of any use to you.

APPENDIX 7

Complete patent specifications accepted, 1976 and 1977 Specification Nos. 1466301-1502850

These are shown divided according to the 40 divisions of the present classification system together with comparable figures for the year 1976.

Serial number 1484003 was not utilised and there is no specification bearing this number.

| Division | Main subject matter | Specifications classified | |
|----------|--|---------------------------|--------|
| | | 1976 | 1977 |
| A1 | Agriculture; animal husbandry | 390 | 419 |
| A2 | Food; tobacco | 439 | 379 |
| A3 | Apparel; footwear; jewellery | 218 | 151 |
| A4 | Furniture; household articles | 838 | 654 |
| A5 | Medicines; surgery | 1,093 | 940 |
| A6 | Entertainments | 231 | 260 |
| B1 | Physical and chemical apparatus | 1,085 | 1,013 |
| B2 | Crushing; coating; separating | 619 | 555 |
| B3 | Metal working | 1,656 | 1,418 |
| B4 | Cutting; land tools; radioactive handling | 288 | 223 |
| B5 | Working non-metals; presses | 1,271 | 1,023 |
| B6 | Stationery; printing; writing; decorating | 558 | 536 |
| B7 | Transport | 1,156 | 1,103 |
| B8 | Conveying; packing; load-handling; hoisting; storing | 2,008 | 1,699 |
| C1 | Inorganic chemistry; glass; fertilizers; explosives | 1,289 | 1,246 |
| C2 | Organic chemistry | 3,236 | 2,818 |
| C3 | Macromolecular compounds | 2,266 | 2,277 |
| C4 | Dyes; paints; miscellaneous compositions | 561 | 434 |
| C5 | Fats; oils; waxes; petroleum; gas manufacture | 598 | 572 |
| C6 | Sugar; skins; microbiology; beverages | 106 | 106 |
| C7 | Metallurgy; electrolysis | 1,069 | 826 |
| D1 | Textiles; sewing; ropes | 1,328 | 1,085 |
| D2 | Paper | 115 | 99 |
| E1 | Civil engineering; building | 1,149 | 1,183 |
| E2 | Fastenings; operating doors | 485 | 461 |
| F1 | Prime movers; pumps | 1,400 | 1,373 |
| F2 | Machine elements | 2,590 | 2,406 |
| F3 | Armaments; projectiles | 179 | 122 |
| F4 | Heating; cooling; drying; lighting | 1,361 | 1,270 |
| G1 | Measuring; testing | 1,519 | 1,630 |
| G2 | Optics; photography | 1,336 | 1,382 |
| G3 | Controlling; timing | 824 | 771 |
| G4 | Calculating; counting; checking; signalling; data handling | 866 | 802 |
| G5 | Advertising; education; music; recording | 476 | 432 |
| G6 | Nucleonics | 177 | 165 |
| H1 | Electric circuit elements; magnets | 1,894 | 1,730 |
| H2 | Electric power | 1,118 | 995 |
| H3 | Electronic circuits; radio receivers | 674 | 702 |
| H4 | Telecommunications | 1,163 | 1,133 |
| H5 | Miscellaneous electric techniques | 168 | 156 |
| | | 39,797 | 36,549 |

