

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Intellectual property piracy complaints

Date of release: 10 July 2019

Information request:

I am seeking information on the number of complaints of piracy reported to the department since January 2014.

Specifically, please supply the following information below:

1. A breakdown of the number of complaints reported to the department, per month, regarding acts of piracy in the time frame requested.
2. A breakdown of (1) by genre, (i.e. film, documentary, sport, etc).
3. A breakdown of (1) by type of media, (i.e. over-the-top streaming, television broadcast, etc).
4. A breakdown of (1) by type region/territory pirate activity took place, (i.e. UK, France, USA, Saudi Arabia, etc)
5. The number of reports of piracy, as per (1), that led to a criminal investigation during this period, broken down by genre, (i.e. film, documentary, sport, etc).
6. Of those noted in (5), the number that led to convictions, broken down by genre, (i.e. film, documentary, sport, etc).
7. Where possible, please supply names of piracy operations currently under investigation by the UK Government (i.e. BeoutQ), broken down by genre, (i.e. film, documentary, sport, etc).

Information released:

The attachment lists the complaints of piracy reported to the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), as revealed by a search of our documents on the subject from January 2014.

We were only able to answer questions 1-4 because the IPO does not hold any records of investigations, convictions or piracy operations. Furthermore, many of the complaints records do not specify the nature of the genre of recording or the

territory where the pirating reportedly occurred. It is possible that the police, including PIPCU, or Trading Standards may hold further information on these points.

You may observe that some of the responses cluster around specific dates, probably because at certain times the IPO has published calls for views or published information about piracy that stimulated a number of enquiries/complaints.