

FOI Release
Information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Title: Gender split of patent applicants

Date of release: 19 September 2019

Information request:

Statistics of how many patents are granted to men/women in the UK per year.

Information released:

The IPO does not hold statistics of the gender of applicants, chiefly because we are not required to ask the question of gender and because most applicants are corporate rather than private individuals.

However, the IPO has done some quite detailed research into the gender of inventors which may be of interest to you. As you are aware, the inventor is not necessarily the applicant of a patent, but I hope the report may give you some insights into the growing trend of female inventors, at least up until 2015.

You can read the report at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gender-profiles-in-uk-patenting-an-analysis-of-female-inventorship>

Other than that, there are a few references to female applicants in the IPO Annual Reports, mostly from the early 20th century and an occasional mention during the 1970s, but these do not amount to a systematic attempt to gather such statistics.