

**FOI Release**  
**Information released under the Freedom of Information Act**

**Title:** Inspections

**Date of release:** 23 September 2020

**Information request:**

1. What inspection activities does the Intellectual Property Office perform?
2. How many inspections (of each type if possible) were performed in 2019/20?
3. How many inspectors do you employ, and what was the annual cost of these inspectors in 2019/20?
4. Do you use third parties to perform these inspections? If so, who did you use, and what was the annual spend in 2019/20?
5. What information management system, if any, do you use to manage the inspections, and what was the annual spend on this in 2019/20

For avoidance of doubt, by 'inspections' I mean 'activities that are carried out to ensure the inspected entity meets legislative requirements for their role or function or condition, delivers on their duty of care for individuals or the public and/or adheres to any rules set by government on use of government funds'.

**Information released:**

The type of regulatory activity that the Intellectual Property Office carries out is part of its responsibility for ensuring that collective management organisations (CMOs), such as those that collect royalties on behalf of copyright holders, comply with their obligations.

1. Details on our 'inspections activities' are available in our published service standards and last year's Annual review <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-the-ipo-regulates-licensing-bodies/how-the-ipo-regulates-licensing-bodies>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ensuring-high-standards-in-collective-rights-management>

2. With regards to our activities in 2019/20, these will be published in this year's Annual Review which we are currently working on. Information that is intended for future publication is exempt from disclosure under section 22 of the Freedom of information Act and we feel that information for the current year should be withheld for the time being. Although this exemption is subject to a public interest test, having considered the balance of public interest we feel that it would be best served by releasing the information in due course as part of a planned publication. I cannot give you a publication date, but it will certainly be by the end of this year.

3. The IPO currently has two employees engaged on inspections, but both are policy officers whose inspection tasks form only a part of their wider duties.
4. The IPO does not use any third parties for this activity.
5. We do not use a dedicated information management system specifically for our CRM activities other than our office-wide SharePoint system. CRM would account for a tiny fraction of the office's use of this system and we cannot quantify spending with respect to CRM work alone.

[Correct up to date of release.]