

FOI 23/100

23rd March 2023

Dear

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act, please accept our apologies for the delay in response.

We confirm that we hold the data you have requested. However, our assessment of your request is that Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies, and we cannot proceed any further at this stage. Section 12 of the Act allows public authorities to refuse requests where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 24 working hours in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

As you state in your request, we did previously publish the FOI disclosure logs, but we did not publish the responses themselves in a redacted format. At the point we switched to publication of the responses, we stopped recording outcome ('result' as termed in your request) information when requests were responded to (i.e. whether the requested information was disclosed fully, in part, or not at all and which exemptions had been applied, if any). In order to provide the information, you are seeking, we will need to look back over every request received in 2021 and 2022 (a total of 2576), review each response and record the result/outcome. We assess that it will take between one and one a half minutes to check each request, which will give a total duration of at least 42 hours.

We will then need to take the same steps for Internal Reviews, which across the two years total 258. We estimate this will be in the region of 4-5 hours of work to compile, using the same estimate figure as given above.

We are happy to provide what you have requested for 1440 of the requests (which we judge will take 24 hours), it is difficult for us to guide you any further than that. If you do wish to proceed then please let us know how you would like us to action this – for example starting from 01 January 2021 and working forwards, or starting from 31 December 2022 and working backwards.

The other information you have requested, specifically:

- Ref
- Date submitted to MHRA
- Subject
- Date response sent
- Whether an Internal Review was requested (but not the outcome)
- Whether the case was referred to the ICO

Is information we record and can make available to you, either on its own or as part of a refined request should you choose to make one.

We apologise once again for the long delay in response, please let us know how you would like to proceed.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date you receive this response and addressed to: info@mhra.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you were to remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you would have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please bear in mind that the Information Commissioner will not normally review our handling of your request unless you have first contacted us to conduct an internal review. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

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