



The Insolvency  
Service

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[REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI24/25-148  
Date: 17 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request**

Thank you for your email of 21 January 2025 in which you requested from the Insolvency Service (the agency):

*"We would like to know the following:*

1. *How many DRO applications have been approved from January 2017 to October 2024.*
  - a. *How many DRO applications were rejected*
  - b. *How many successful DRO applications were from consumers with an income from private means, e.g employment/private pensions etc.*
  - c. *How many of the approved applications, were subsequently revoked*
  - d. *The reasons for revocation, including;*
    - i. *Age profile of the revocations*
    - ii. *Whether employed*
    - iii. *Whether the revocation came about due to self-reported changes in circumstances or part of an investigation by IS.*
  - e. *How many consumers, self-reported changes in circumstances as part of their obligations under a DRO from the applications successfully approved since 2017.*
  - f. *How many consumers has the IS investigated for changes in circumstances, since 2017 of the approved applications.*

*If we could please have a response by 21st February 2025 that would be appreciated."*

Your request has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm the agency holds some of the information that you have requested, and where applicable, have provided the answers below.

Some of the information you have requested is held by the Official Receiver for the purposes of exercising their statutory functions pursuant to the Insolvency Act 1986. Where data has been used by the Insolvency Service's statistics team for the purposes of compiling corporate reports, the information can be provided as it is no longer held only by the Official Receiver. However, if the information requested is solely held by the Official Receiver, it can not be made available because Official Receivers, when exercising their statutory functions

under insolvency law, are officers of the court, and not public authorities as defined by FOIA nor are they one of the listed public authorities in schedule 1 of FOIA.

In the circumstances of this case, the Official Receiver is not acting as either civil servant or on behalf of the Secretary of State and is therefore not subject to FOIA.

As such, the Official Receiver is not obliged to respond to this FOIA request.

This approach is consistent with the Information Commissioner's Office below guidance document (para. 25, page 7) and Information Rights Tribunal Decisions, which you may find helpful:

[Information held by a public authority](#)

[IC-110771-D0N7](#)

Where this applies to a question, we have stated this as "Official Receivers Files". The answers which have been disclosed have been provided by the Insolvency Service statistics team and not the Official Receiver.

**How many DRO applications have been approved from January 2017 to October 2024.**

213,003

**How many DRO applications were rejected**

Between 1 January 2017 and 31 October 2024 - 602.

**How many successful DRO applications were from consumers with an income from private means, e.g employment/private pensions etc.**

Official Receiver Files – please see explanation above.

**How many of the approved applications, were subsequently revoked**

1,518

**The reasons for revocation, including;**

**Age profile of the revocations**

	Revoked DROs
18-24	74
25-34	313
35-44	389
45-54	372
55-64	260
65+	110
Total	1518

**Whether employed**

Self Employed 50  
Employed 503  
Unemployed 756  
House wife/husband 35  
Company Director/Promotor 1  
Retired 104  
Unknown 69

**Whether the revocation came about due to self-reported changes in circumstances or part of an investigation by IS.**

Official Receiver Files – please see explanation above.

**How many consumers, self-reported changes in circumstances as part of their obligations under a DRO from the applications successfully approved since 2017.**

Official Receiver Files – please see explanation above.

**How many consumers has the IS investigated for changes in circumstances, since 2017 of the approved applications.**

Official Receiver Files – please see explanation above.

## **Complaints**

If you are not satisfied with the response we have provided to you and would like us to reconsider our decision by way of an internal review (IR), please contact our Information Rights team within 40 working days of this letter at [foi@insolvency.gov.uk](mailto:foi@insolvency.gov.uk) or by post at:

Information Rights Team  
The Insolvency Service  
3rd Floor  
Cannon House  
18 Priory Queensway  
Birmingham  
B4 6FD  
United Kingdom

You also have the right to contact the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) if you wish for them to investigate any complaint you may have regarding our handling of your request. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect an IR to have been completed in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

Information Rights Team  
The Insolvency Service

The Department for Business and Trade, Official Receivers and the Adjudicator are Data Controllers in respect of personal data processed by the Insolvency Service. For the details about how personal data is processed by the agency, please see the full Insolvency Service Personal Information Charter here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/insolvency-service/about/personal-information-charter>