



The Insolvency
Service

Information Rights Team

The Insolvency Service
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www.gov.uk/insolvency-service

Our ref: FOI24/25-165
Date: 4 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request

Thank you for your email on 20 February 2025, in which you requested from the Insolvency Service:

"I am particularly interested in the age of companies at the time of compulsory winding-up. I have reviewed publicly available insolvency statistics but could not find specific data on the distribution of company age at the moment of liquidation. If such data exists, I would greatly appreciate any available reports, datasets, or guidance on where I might obtain this information.

If this data is not publicly available, I would also be grateful if you could advise me on whether a formal request could be submitted to access it".

On 25 February, the agency sought clarification and your email on 26 February 2025 clarified the following:

"I am indeed referring to compulsory liquidation. If possible, I would like to request the statistics from January 2023 to December 2024."

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

I can confirm the agency holds the information you have requested. Please see the attached supplement (Annex A – Compulsory Liquidations by Age for England & Wales, January 2023 to December 2024) which includes numbers of compulsory liquidations by company age and the month of registration of the insolvency for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

Under section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance) you may find it useful to note:

[Companies House](#) data are used as the source. Companies House carries out its statutory functions of maintaining the registry of corporate bodies that are regulated by the Companies Act 2006. Note that Companies House does not monitor all business types (e.g. sole traders) and for information on these and other business types you may wish to contact the [Office of National Statistics](#).

Please note that there may be differences with the published official statistics as the data used for Annex A is sourced from Companies House, which includes the incorporation date of companies, whereas in the [monthly company insolvency official statistics](#) compulsory liquidation data for England and Wales is sourced from the Insolvency Service case administration system. The official statistics should be considered the authoritative record of the number of insolvencies in the United Kingdom.

Although efforts have been made to remove duplicate data, some insolvency cases may be counted more than once in Annex A.

Complaints

If you are not satisfied with the response we have provided 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 or by post at:

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Cannon House
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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.

Kind regards

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>