



The Insolvency
Service

Information Rights Team
The Insolvency Service
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Our ref: FOI25/26-066
Date: 14 July 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request

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

"This is a request under FOIA for details of instances in which The Insolvency Service (including, where applicable, any agencies, bodies, or units for which it is ultimately responsible for supplier payments) has failed to pay its suppliers on time, thereby causing liabilities for late payment compensation and/or interest on late payments to be incurred for the public purse.

As the Government has made clear, late payment remains a significant issue for business and a drag on the UK economy as a whole. It is clear that, despite what the law says, many suppliers have not received timely payment or the interest and compensation for late payment to which they are entitled by statute.

Public authorities must keep information on payment in order to comply with their legal obligations, and there is a public interest in ensuring both compliance and that unpaid interest and compensation is recovered from public authorities. If proper records are kept as they ought to be, then information in this respect ought readily to be available.

The information requested below is not confidential, and its disclosure under FOIA is not capable of adversely affecting any party's commercial interests. This is because this request is aimed at data about late payment liabilities that have in fact arisen: the disclosure of this data cannot cause any additional liability to arise. We therefore do not anticipate any reasonable grounds for refusing this request.

In any event, there is strong public interest in transparency about these matters. Relevant factors in this respect include: enhancing public understanding and scrutiny of issues of significant importance to stewardship of the public purse and to economic growth; facilitating an informed debate about compliance by your authority with its contractual obligations and with Government policy; helping businesses that suffer from late payment (many of which are small and medium-sized enterprises), and encouraging improvements in payment practices by public authorities such as yours.

Request

With the above points in mind, we request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid in within 30 days for the period starting 1 April 2023 to the date of this request:

- 1. Supplier Name*
- 2. Invoice Date*
- 3. Gross Invoice Value*
- 4. Payment Date*
- 5. Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)*

Clarification:

We reiterate that this request:

(a) Â Â is limited to information which should (if proper records are kept) be readily available from a purchase ledger system and should therefore be possible to retrieve without any difficulty and without imposing any significant burden;

(b) Â Â relates to organisations (not individuals) who are entitled to be paid out of public funds for public services, and we do not require the disclosure of any personal information of any individual person;

(c) Â Â does not require the disclosure of any confidential information or information to the production of which there could be any other lawful objection.

Compliance Assistance:

While we do not anticipate any grounds on which the requested information can lawfully be withheld, we nonetheless remind you of your duty under section 16 of FOIA to advise and assist requesters.

If you consider that it may be impracticable to provide all the requested information within the statutory timescales, then we shall be pleased to discuss with you the reasons for this, and to see what steps may reasonably be taken in order the address these.

For example, we would be content to receive the information in several parts, in another convenient format (such as that which you may already have), or to prioritise (such as by the provision of greater value items, or by date).

If there be any other steps which you think could reasonably assist in providing the information, or refining the request, then please let me know."

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

I can confirm the agency holds the information that you have requested and I have provided answers to your questions and have attached the response to this email.

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 or by post at:

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3rd Floor
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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>