



The Insolvency
Service

Information Rights Team
The Insolvency Service
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: FOI25/26-128
Date: 12 September 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) Request

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

"I am making this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information held by the Insolvency Service:

- 1. For each of the last five complete financial years, the number of directors disqualification cases pursued where breach of section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 was relied upon as a ground (i.e., cases where the Insolvency Service issued disqualification proceedings or accepted a disqualification undertaking and s.216 contravention was cited among the allegations).*
- 2. For the same period, the number of criminal convictions obtained for contraventions of section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 following prosecutions brought by (or on behalf of) the Insolvency Service.*

Format request:

- Please supply the figures in a reusable format (CSV or Excel), with one row per year and columns along the lines of:*
 - Year (e.g., 2020/21, 2021/22, etc.)*
 - Disqualification cases pursued citing s.216*
 - Criminal convictions for s.216*

Clarifications to assist you:

- If your records are not held by financial year, please provide the last five complete calendar years instead and state which basis you have used.*
- If any part of the request exceeds the cost limit, please provide the information that can be supplied within the limit and advise, under s.16 FOIA, how I might refine the remainder.*

Administrative points:

- *I understand you will respond within 20 working days as per s.10 FOIA.*
- *If any of the requested information is not held, please state this clearly.*
- *If you apply any exemptions, please specify which exemptions and your reasons.*
- *If possible, please include any brief data definitions or caveats used internally.*

Many thanks for your assistance.”

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 below.

For each of the last five complete financial years, the number of directors disqualification cases pursued where breach of section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 was relied upon as a ground (i.e., cases where the Insolvency Service issued disqualification proceedings or accepted a disqualification undertaking and s.216 contravention was cited among the allegations).

The agency does not hold records of any Company Director Disqualification Act 1986 (CDDA) Section 6 investigations being pursued where there is a main or other allegation of trading using a prohibited name.

So, for CDDA Section 6 Disqualifications, the amount is 0 (zero).

In relation to CDDA Section 2 disqualifications, the agency does not “pursue” Section 2 disqualifications. Criminal investigations are carried out, resulting in the agency making a decision in relation to whether charges should be made. Once this has been established, the agency will commence with a prosecution, with the defendant being convicted or acquitted.

The insolvency service has no control over the sentence, with Section 2 Disqualifications being granted by the judge at their discretion.

The figures for Section 2 disqualifications granted where the defendants have been charged for contraventions of the restrictions on the re-use of company names are set out in the table below:

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (Up to 31st August 2025)
S2 Disqualifications Granted (Defendants)	3	5	2	3	7	2

For the same period, the number of criminal convictions obtained for contraventions of section 216 of the Insolvency Act 1986 following prosecutions brought by (or on behalf of) the Insolvency Service.

The number of defendants convicted between 1st April 2020 with charges being brought for contraventions of the restrictions on the re-use of company names stands at 58.

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 (Up to 31st August 2025)
Criminal Convictions (Defendants)	6	24	8	5	10	5

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:

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>