

## FOI 204/2015

### REQUEST

I am undertaking a PhD carrying out research into the use of FOI in local authorities in England in the first 10 years of the Act, with a focus on users of the Act (where known), alleged 'misuse' and any unintended consequences of the legislation.

Rather ironically one of the only ways to gather such data is to submit an FOI to local authorities, as no statistics are collated centrally or in any uniform manner.

I would therefore very much appreciate the following information where you hold it for the last three years (financial year or Jan-Dec, whichever you record by):

1. Number of FOI (including EIR) requests received per year.
2. Percentage of requests in Q1 answered in 20 working days.
3. Number of FOI (including EIR) requests by requester type. e.g. broken down by requests from the media, business, student, MP etc. (where obvious from the request.)
4. Number of requests your authority has deemed vexatious under s14.
5. For those requests in Q4, a quick description /summary / one word answer of why each request was deemed vexatious e.g. zombies, dragons, repeat requester, vexatious complainant.

### RESPONSE

1. Number of FOI (including EIR) requests received per calendar year.

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015 so far</u>
336	480	656	206

**EIR requests which we receive from Search Agents in respect of house sales are kept separately in financial years (any other strictly EIR requests are included in the FOI figures above)**

<u>2012/13</u>	<u>2013/14</u>	<u>2014/15</u>
561	954	1126

2. Percentage of requests in Q1 answered in 20 working days.

#### FOI requests

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
96%	95%	97%

## EIR requests

**100% in all years**

3. Number of FOI (including EIR) requests by requester type. e.g. broken down by requests from the media, business, student, MP etc. (where obvious from the request.)

**These are the categories we use when collecting monthly data from our Service FOI Representatives across the Authority**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
<b>Member of the Public</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>236</b>
<b>Company</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Media</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Local Councillors</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>MPs</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>125</b>

**Search Agents (for EIR's) (see data at question 1)**

4. Number of requests your authority has deemed vexatious under s14.

<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
6	2	0

5. For those requests in Q4, a quick description /summary / one word answer of why each request was deemed vexatious e.g. zombies, dragons, repeat requester, vexatious complainant.

**We only centrally keep records of how many requests have been deemed vexatious, we do not ask Services to provide us with a reason on their monthly returns.**