

**Freedom of Information Act
2000 – Statistics on
implementation in central
government
Q2: April – June 2009**

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

Published 24 September 2009





Ministry of
JUSTICE

**Freedom of Information Act
2000 – Statistics on
implementation in central
government
Q2: April – June 2009**

Ministry of Justice
Statistics bulletin

Also available on the Ministry of Justice website at

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

Introduction

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“Fol Act”) and the associated Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (“EIRs”) came fully into force on 1 January 2005. This bulletin covers the period April to June 2009 and presents the latest quarterly set of statistics on their implementation within central government.

The previous quarterly bulletins, together covering the period from January 2005 to March 2009, are available via the links on the following pages of the Ministry of Justice and Freedom of Information websites:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm

www.foi.gov.uk/reference/statisticsAndReports.htm

The statistics in this bulletin relate to the handling of written requests for information received by monitored bodies during the relevant time period. **They cover only “non-routine” information requests**, and information given out on request as a part of routine business should not be counted. **Appendix A** gives a definition of a “non-routine” request, and other information on the scope of these statistics.

This bulletin presents monitoring statistics for a total of 43 central government bodies, including all major departments of state. **Appendix B** gives a full list of monitored bodies.

Executive summary

Departments of State reported receiving 5,769 “non-routine” information requests during the second quarter of 2009 (Q2). Other monitored bodies received 4,195 requests. Across all monitored bodies, a total of 9,964 requests were received, of which 92 per cent had been processed at the time of monitoring. This includes 189 requests handled under the amended Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) which came into force on 1 January 2005. *[see Table 1]*

The 9,964 requests across all monitored bodies received in the second quarter of 2009 is 12 per cent greater than the 8,865 received during the corresponding quarter of 2008. *[see Table A]*

During Q2 of 2009, 86 per cent of all monitored bodies’ requests (excluding those “on hold” or lapsed) were “in time”, in that they were processed within the statutory deadline* or were subject to a permitted deadline extension. This figure is the same as in the previous quarter but slightly lower than in the corresponding quarter of 2008. *[see Table 2 and Table B]*

Of all “resolvable” requests received during Q2 of 2009 (i.e. requests where it was possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the information being sought), 55 per cent were granted in full, slightly lower than in the previous quarter. *[see Table 3 and Table C]*

* 20 working days generally, 30 working days for The National Archives

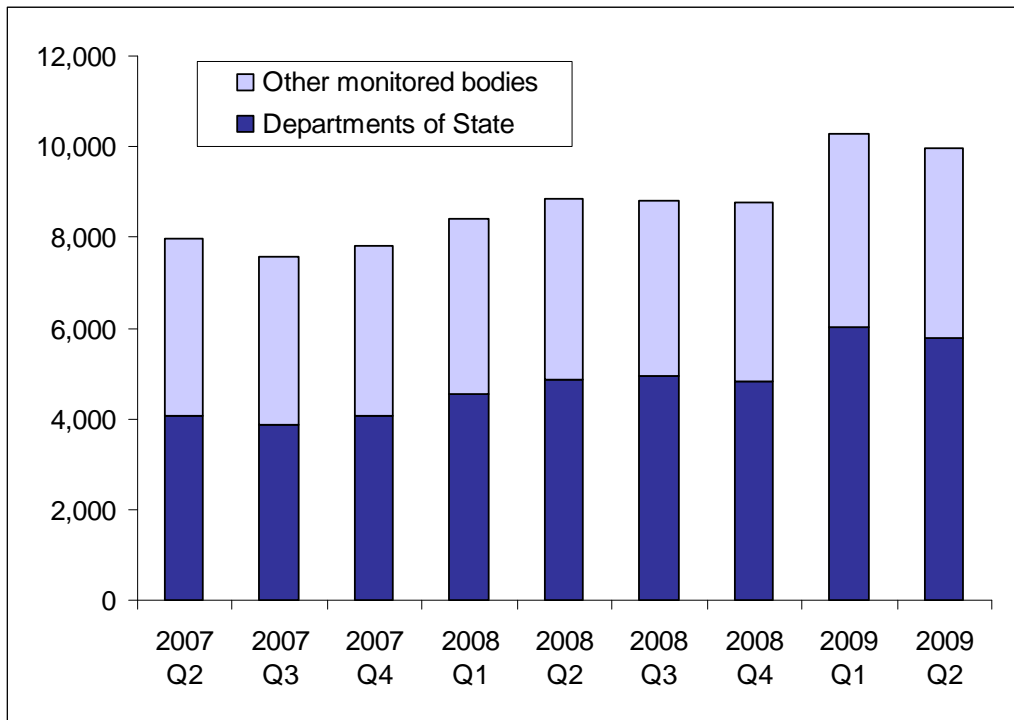
Commentary

Number of requests [see Table 1 and Table A]

Departments of State reported receiving a total of 5,769 information requests under the Freedom of Information Act and the associated Environmental Information Regulations during the quarter from 1 April to 30 June 2009 (Q2). Other monitored bodies reported having received 4,195 requests. Across all monitored bodies, therefore, a total of 9,964 requests were reported.

This overall total for Q2 of 2009 is 12 per cent greater than in the corresponding quarter last year (i.e. Q2 of 2008), but 3 per cent fewer than in the preceding quarter. The number of requests received by Departments of State was 18 per cent more than during the same period last year, while the total received by other monitored bodies increased by 5 per cent. Departments of State accounted for 58 per cent of all requests received by monitored bodies in Q2 of 2009.

Figure 1: Numbers of FoI requests received by Departments of State and other monitored bodies, quarterly from Q2 2007



Of the Departments of State, the Ministry of Justice reported having received 679 requests during Q2, the highest departmental total. This was only nine requests more than the Ministry of Defence, whose total of 670 requests was the next highest. The Home Office (638), the Department for Work and Pensions (596), the Department for Transport (560) and the Department of Health (485) were the other departments to receive more than 400 requests in Q2. It should be noted that most of these departments'

figures include requests received by some of their agencies (see Appendix B).

Among other monitored bodies, the Health and Safety Executive reported having received 1,669 requests during Q2, while the National Archives received 885. The Health and Safety Executive is the only monitored body to have received more than 1,000 requests during each quarter since the Act was implemented.

Monitoring statistics also show the number of non-routine information requests that fell fully or mostly under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs). There were 189 such requests during the second quarter of 2009, accounting for 1.9 per cent of all requests received. The monitored bodies with the highest numbers of requests falling under the EIRs were the Rural Payments Agency with 76 requests, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with 34 requests, and Communities and Local Government with 29 requests.

Status of requests at time of monitoring *[see Table 1]*

A large majority of requests (92 per cent) received during Q2 had been processed by the time monitoring information was collected. Of the 774 requests that were still being processed by the monitored bodies, 65 (8 per cent) were reported as “on hold” or “lapsed” because a fee had been charged but no payment had been received. These requests are effectively in suspension, since public authorities are not obliged to respond until the fee has been paid.

Timeliness of response to requests *[see Table 2 and Table B]*

The FoI Act requires public bodies to respond to written requests for information within 20 working days of receipt (with limited exceptions, for example to allow additional time for the consideration of public interest). Across all monitored bodies, 82 per cent of requests received during Q2 of 2009 were sent a response within this standard deadline. Some 86 per cent of requests received during Q2 were “in time”, in that they either received a response within the standard deadline or were subject to a permitted deadline extension. Both these figures are the same as in the previous quarter. The proportion of requests answered within the standard deadline was also the same as in the corresponding quarter of 2008, while the proportion of requests answered “in time” was slightly lower.

Although the standard statutory deadline for response to a FoI request is 20 working days, a 30 working day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to information transferred to the National Archives, which has provided response timeliness information on this basis.

Figure 2: Timeliness of responses to FoI requests received by Departments of State and other monitored bodies in Q2 2009

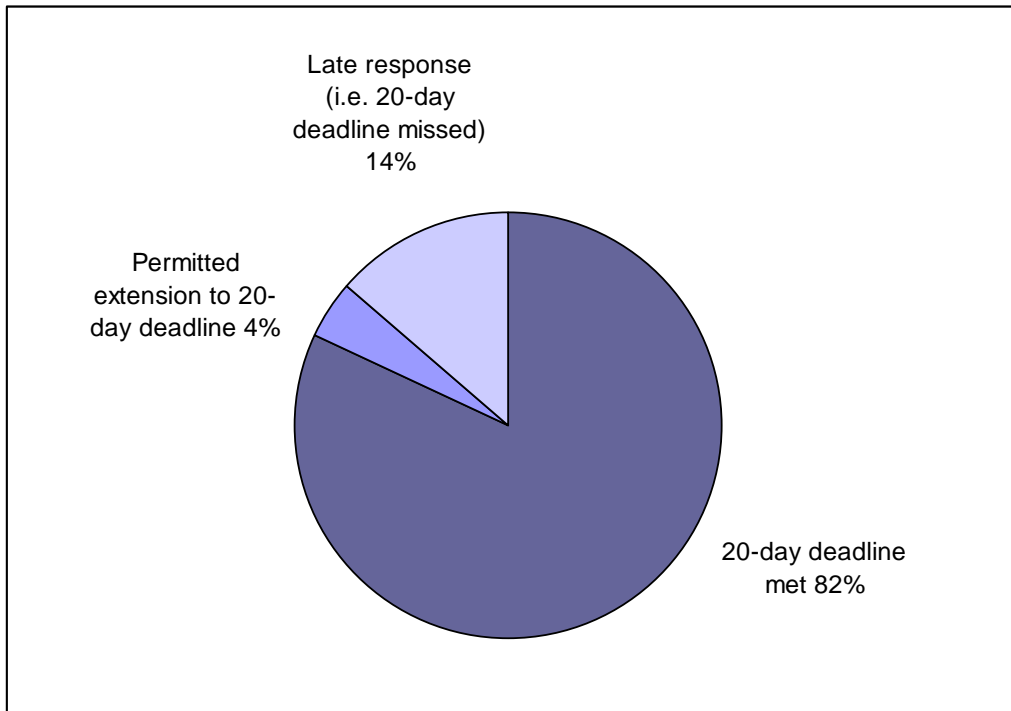
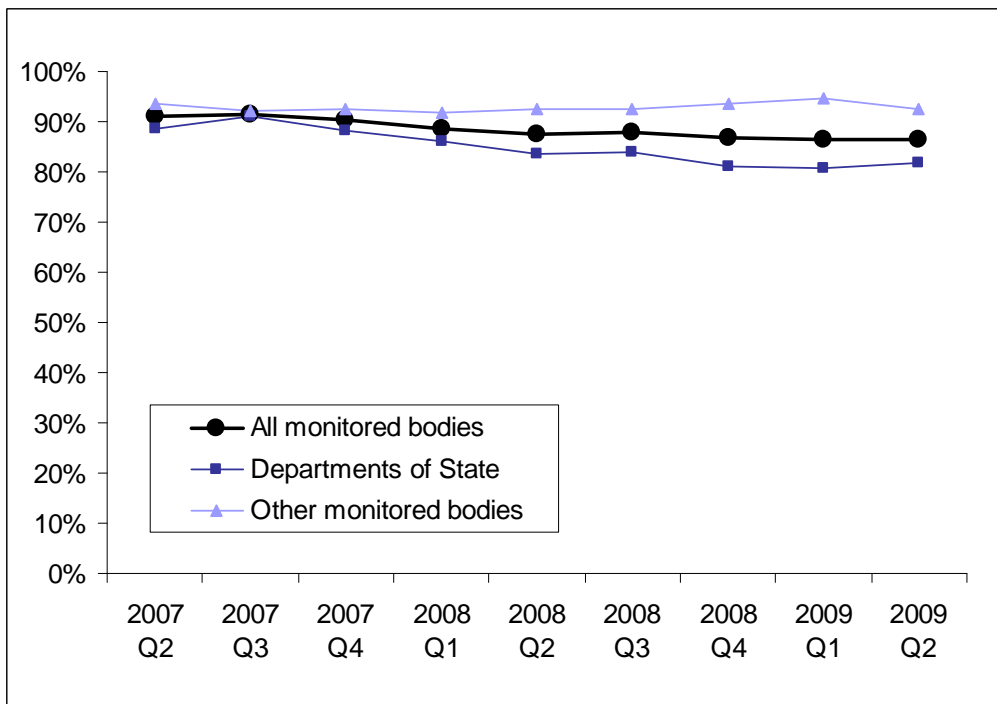


Figure 3: Percentage of FoI requests processed “in time” by Departments of State and other monitored bodies, quarterly from Q2 2007

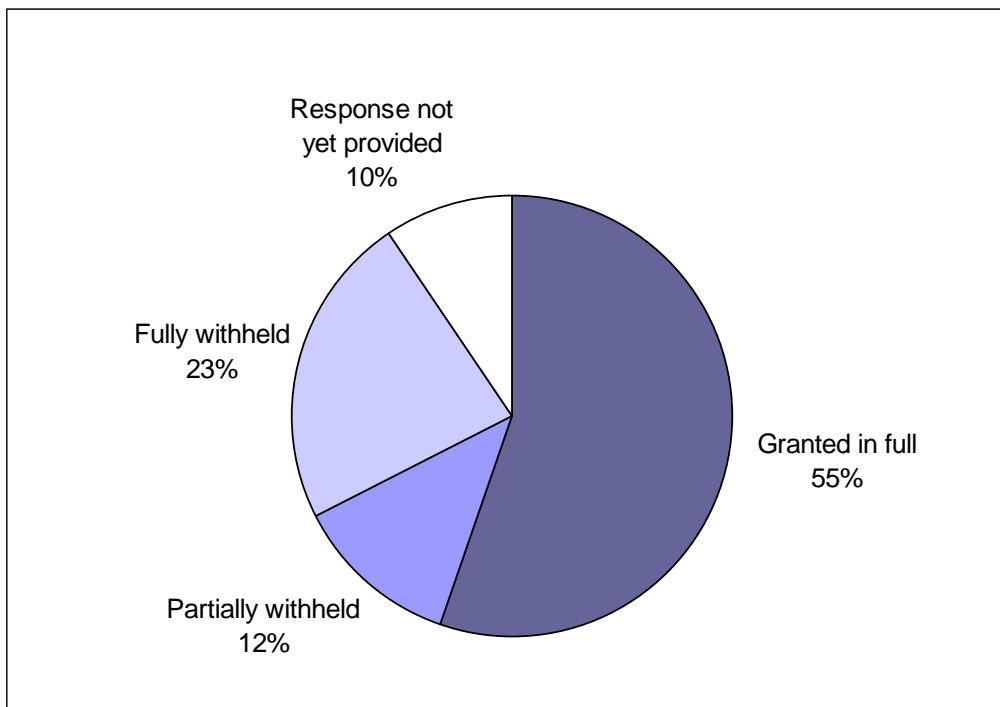


Initial outcomes of requests [see Table 3 and Table C]

Of the 9,964 requests reported during Q2 of 2009 across all monitored bodies, 65 were “on hold” awaiting a fee payment. In addition, a further 1,755 requests sought information that was not held, and 694 were responded to with “advice and assistance” because the body handling the request needed further information in order to identify the information being sought. As a result, the remaining 7,450 requests were assumed to be “resolvable”, in that it would have been possible to give a substantive decision on whether to release the information being sought.

Of the “resolvable” requests received during Q2, 55 per cent were granted in full, 12 per cent were withheld in part, and 23 per cent were withheld in full at the time of monitoring. The remaining 10 per cent had not yet received a substantive response.

Figure 4: Initial outcomes of “resolvable” FoI requests received by Departments of State and other monitored bodies in Q2 2009



The proportion of “resolvable” requests granted in full in Q2, 55 per cent, was marginally lower than in the previous quarter. The proportion of requests in Q2 withheld in part was the same as in the previous quarter, while the proportion of requests withheld in full was slightly higher.

Use of exemptions and exceptions [see Table 4]

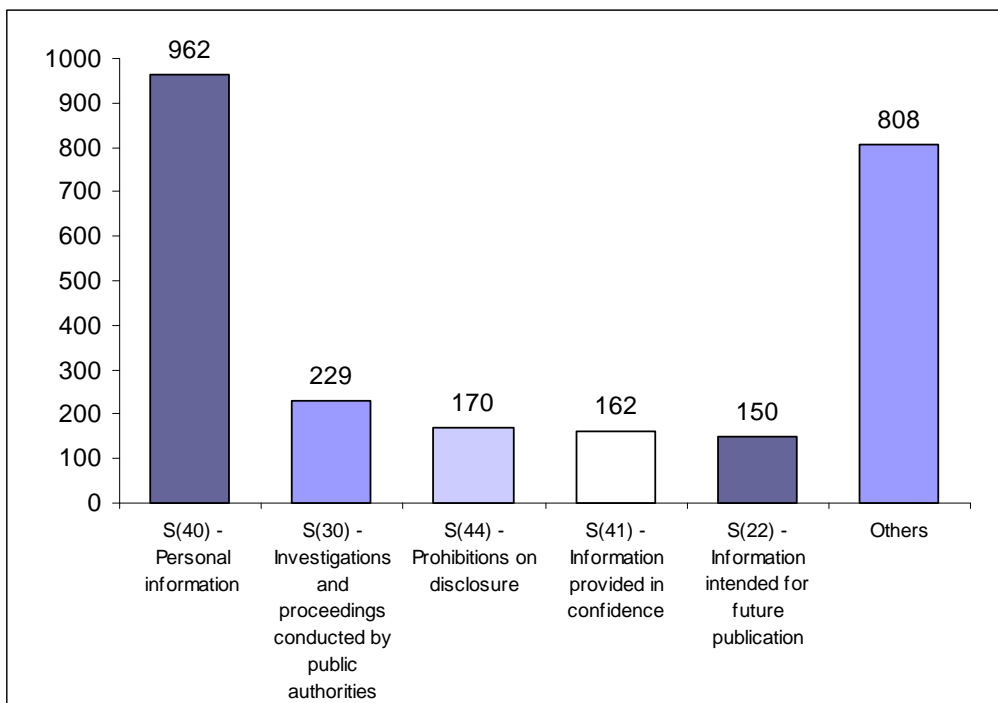
Under the Fol Act, a public authority can only refuse to provide requested information that it holds if:

- The request is considered vexatious or repeated
- The cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit
- The information falls in one or more of the categories of exempt information (“exemptions”) listed in Part II of the Act.

There are similar arrangements that apply to certain types of information under the EIRs. These list a number of “exceptions to the duty to disclose environmental information” in Part 3 of the Regulations.

Across all monitored bodies, a total of 2,055 requests were reported as having one or more of these exemptions or exceptions applied to them during Q2. This quarterly total is markedly higher than it was prior to Q3 of 2006 because it now includes data on exemption usage by the Health and Safety Executive, which was not previously available.

Figure 5: Number of exemptions and exceptions applied by Departments of State and other monitored bodies on requests received in Q2 2009



The most commonly applied exemptions or exceptions in Q2 were those listed at Section 40 of the Fol Act (relating to personal information), which was applied to 962 requests, Section 30 (investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities), which was applied to 229 requests, and Section 44 (prohibitions on disclosure), which was applied to 170 requests.

Departmental name changes

Please refer to note 1 in Appendix B for full details of departmental name changes that have occurred since Q2 2007, the period covered by the tables in this bulletin.

Tables

Latest quarterly tables

- Table 1. Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 April – 30 June 2009, and their status at time of monitoring
- Table 2. Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 April – 30 June 2009
- Table 3. Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 April – 30 June 2009
- Table 4. Exemptions and exceptions applied by monitored bodies when withholding non-routine information requests received from 1 April – 30 June 2009

In-year performance and volume tables

- Table A. Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 April 2007
- Table B. Proportion of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies that were answered “in time”, by quarter, since 1 April 2007
- Table C. Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 April 2007

TABLE 1

Number of non-routine information requests received from 1 April - 30 June 2009, and their status at time of monitoring¹

Government body	Total requests received	Request status at time of monitoring ¹			
		Processed "On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³	
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	9,964	9,190	65	709	189
TOTAL for Departments of State only	5,769	5,199	1	569	97
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	4,195	3,991	64	140	92
<i>Departments of State</i>					
Attorney General's Office	28	28	0	0	0
Cabinet Office	253	242	0	11	0
Communities and Local Government	200	187	1	12	29
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills ⁴	269	235	0	34	2
Department for Children, Schools and Families	213	200	0	13	0
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	142	125	0	17	0
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	145	123	0	22	34
Department for International Development	70	69	0	1	0
Department for Transport #	560	532	0	28	22
Department for Work and Pensions #	596	540	0	56	0
Department of Energy and Climate Change	54	47	0	7	3
Department of Health	485	471	0	14	1
Export Credits Guarantee Department	17	16	0	1	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	231	218	0	13	0
HM Treasury	399	385	0	14	1
Home Office #	638	536	0	102	1
Ministry of Defence #	670	533	0	137	2
Ministry of Justice #	679	605	0	74	1
Northern Ireland Office	49	45	0	4	0
Scotland Office	52	43	0	9	0
Wales Office	19	19	0	0	0

TABLE 1 continued

Number of non-routine information requests received from 1 April - 30 June 2009, and their status at time of monitoring¹

Government body	Total requests received	Request status at time of monitoring ¹			
		Processed "On hold" or lapsed ²	Still being processed	Number handled under EIRs ³	
Other bodies included in monitoring					
Central Office of Information	8	8	0	0	0
Charity Commission	133	132	0	1	0
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	41	39	0	2	0
Crown Prosecution Service	139	139	0	0	0
Debt Management Office	6	6	0	0	0
Food Standards Agency	29	28	0	1	0
Health and Safety Executive	1,669	1,636	1	32	16
HM Land Registry	41	41	0	0	0
HM Revenue and Customs	355	332	0	23	0
National Archives	885	760	63	62	0
National Savings and Investments	36	36	0	0	0
Office for National Statistics	29	29	0	0	0
Office for Standards in Education	317	317	0	0	0
Office of Fair Trading	128	128	0	0	0
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	39	30	0	9	0
Office of Rail Regulation	52	51	0	1	0
Ordnance Survey	60	60	0	0	0
Royal Mint	9	9	0	0	0
Rural Payments Agency	83	81	0	2	76
Serious Fraud Office	32	25	0	7	0
Treasury Solicitor's Department	69	69	0	0	0
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	35	35	0	0	0

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Appendix B gives full details.

Notes

1 - Monitoring returns were submitted to the Ministry of Justice during August 2009.

2 - Requests "on hold" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received at the time of monitoring. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made.

Where a fee is charged and the deadline for payment expires, the request is deemed to have "lapsed" as no further action is required from the public authority.

3 - The amended Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) came into force on 1 January 2005 to coincide with the FoI Act. For further information on the EIRs, see the main Notes section of this publication.

4 - Requests received by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills between 1 April and 4 June are counted under the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Please see Appendix B for more information.

TABLE 2

Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 April - 30 June 2009

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage of requests meeting 20-day deadline	Percentage of requests "in time" (i.e. meeting deadline or with permitted extension)
		20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to 20-day deadline	Late response (i.e. 20-day deadline missed)		
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	9,899	8,102	439	1,358	82%	86%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	5,768	4,389	327	1,052	76%	82%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	4,131	3,713	112	306	90%	93%
Departments of State						
Attorney General's Office	28	26	1	1	93%	96%
Cabinet Office	253	232	9	12	92%	95%
Communities and Local Government	199	172	18	9	86%	95%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	269	189	16	64	70%	76%
Department for Children, Schools and Families	213	180	5	28	85%	87%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	142	111	29	2	78%	99%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	145	104	19	22	72%	85%
Department for International Development	70	66	2	2	94%	97%
Department for Transport #	560	487	19	54	87%	90%
Department for Work and Pensions #	596	438	9	149	73%	75%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	54	38	1	15	70%	72%
Department of Health	485	448	18	19	92%	96%
Export Credits Guarantee Department	17	15	1	1	*	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	231	183	40	8	79%	97%
HM Treasury	399	362	36	1	91%	100%
Home Office #	638	357	55	226	56%	65%
Ministry of Defence #	670	428	31	211	64%	69%
Ministry of Justice #	679	474	5	200	70%	71%
Northern Ireland Office	49	33	8	8	67%	84%
Scotland Office	52	31	4	17	60%	67%
Wales Office	19	15	1	3	*	*

TABLE 2 continued

Timeliness of response to non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 April - 30 June 2009

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Timeliness of response			Percentage of requests meeting 20-day deadline	Percentage of requests "in time" (i.e. meeting deadline or with permitted extension)
		20-day deadline met	Permitted extension ² to 20-day deadline	Late response (i.e. 20-day deadline missed)		
Other bodies included in monitoring						
Central Office of Information	8	8	0	0	*	*
Charity Commission	133	117	1	15	88%	89%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	41	24	0	17	59%	59%
Crown Prosecution Service	139	135	1	3	97%	98%
Debt Management Office	6	6	0	0	*	*
Food Standards Agency	29	27	1	1	93%	97%
Health and Safety Executive	1,668	1,528	20	120	92%	93%
HM Land Registry	41	33	0	8	80%	80%
HM Revenue and Customs	355	295	0	60	83%	83%
National Archives [^]	822	729	75	18	89%	98%
National Savings and Investments	36	36	0	0	100%	100%
Office for National Statistics	29	26	1	2	90%	93%
Office for Standards in Education	317	305	3	9	96%	97%
Office of Fair Trading	128	121	0	7	95%	95%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	39	30	0	9	77%	77%
Office of Rail Regulation	52	46	2	4	88%	92%
Ordnance Survey	60	57	2	1	95%	98%
Royal Mint	9	8	0	1	*	*
Rural Payments Agency	83	67	6	10	81%	88%
Serious Fraud Office	32	20	0	12	63%	63%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	69	69	0	0	100%	100%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	35	26	0	9	74%	74%

Notes

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Appendix B gives full details.

[^] - Although the standard statutory deadline for responding to an information request is 20 working days, a 30-day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to archived information. The National Archives' timeliness figures are therefore reported on this basis.

1 - Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. They are therefore excluded from the calculation of timeliness measures.

2 - "Permitted extensions" include:

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Freedom of Information Act is extended to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest.

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Environmental Information Regulations is extended because of the complexity or volume of the request.

TABLE 3

Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 April - 30 June 2009

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	9,899	694	1,755	7,450	4,126	906	1,709	709	55%	23%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	5,768	412	1,008	4,348	2,419	408	952	569	56%	22%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	4,131	282	747	3,102	1,707	498	757	140	55%	24%
Departments of State										
Attorney General's Office	28	4	12	12	3	6	3	0	*	*
Cabinet Office	253	31	71	151	34	13	93	11	23%	62%
Communities and Local Government	199	0	40	159	114	18	15	12	72%	9%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	269	25	57	187	74	37	42	34	40%	22%
Department for Children, Schools and Families	213	13	36	164	98	26	27	13	60%	16%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	142	10	15	117	80	9	11	17	68%	9%
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	145	7	9	129	92	9	6	22	71%	5%
Department for International Development	70	0	4	66	42	6	17	1	64%	26%
Department for Transport #	560	16	62	482	314	46	94	28	65%	20%
Department for Work and Pensions #	596	0	62	534	343	18	117	56	64%	22%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	54	1	5	48	23	16	2	7	48%	4%
Department of Health	485	0	82	403	278	43	68	14	69%	17%
Export Credits Guarantee Department	17	0	0	17	11	4	1	1	*	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	231	22	29	180	60	49	58	13	33%	32%
HM Treasury	399	45	125	229	137	10	68	14	60%	30%
Home Office #	638	83	138	417	171	41	103	102	41%	25%
Ministry of Defence #	670	18	97	555	338	23	57	137	61%	10%
Ministry of Justice #	679	135	133	411	149	25	163	74	36%	40%
Northern Ireland Office	49	2	15	32	17	5	6	4	53%	19%
Scotland Office	52	0	9	43	29	4	1	9	67%	2%
Wales Office	19	0	7	12	12	0	0	0	*	*

TABLE 3 continued

Initial outcomes of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies from 1 April - 30 June 2009

Government body	Total requests received (excluding on-hold and lapsed ¹)	Requests where advice and assistance ² provided	Requests where information not held	Total "resolvable" requests ³	Initial outcome of request				Percentage of resolvable requests granted in full	Percentage of resolvable requests withheld in full
					Granted in full	Partially withheld	Fully withheld ⁴	Response not yet provided ⁵		
Other bodies included in monitoring										
Central Office of Information	8	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	*	*
Charity Commission	133	7	19	107	60	28	18	1	56%	17%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	41	0	1	40	23	0	15	2	58%	38%
Crown Prosecution Service	139	24	25	90	43	9	38	0	48%	42%
Debt Management Office	6	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	*	*
Food Standards Agency	29	0	4	25	10	11	3	1	40%	12%
Health and Safety Executive	1,668	71	465	1,132	617	228	255	32	55%	23%
HM Land Registry	41	0	1	40	38	1	1	0	95%	3%
HM Revenue and Customs	355	4	46	305	153	12	117	23	50%	38%
National Archives	822	115	105	602	364	44	132	62	60%	22%
National Savings and Investments	36	0	1	35	26	0	9	0	74%	26%
Office for National Statistics	29	1	8	20	14	3	3	0	*	*
Office for Standards in Education	317	0	37	280	128	82	70	0	46%	25%
Office of Fair Trading	128	13	8	107	22	19	66	0	21%	62%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	39	1	1	37	20	5	3	9	54%	8%
Office of Rail Regulation	52	12	9	31	27	3	0	1	87%	0%
Ordnance Survey	60	15	1	44	29	11	4	0	66%	9%
Royal Mint	9	0	0	9	4	5	0	0	*	*
Rural Payments Agency	83	11	2	70	47	7	14	2	67%	20%
Serious Fraud Office	32	4	9	19	7	1	4	7	*	*
Treasury Solicitor's Department	69	3	2	64	40	24	0	0	63%	0%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	35	1	3	31	21	5	5	0	68%	16%

Notes

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Appendix B gives full details.

1 - Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made.

2 - "Advice and assistance" would be provided to a requester when the body "reasonably requires further information in order to identify and locate the information requested". See section 1(3) of the Freedom of Information Act for further details.

3 - "Resolvable requests" are all those where it is possible to make a substantive decision on whether to release the requested information. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance (see note above) since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

4 - "Fully withheld" requests include those which were refused because it was estimated that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

5 - This table counts as "resolvable" all requests where a response has not yet been provided. This assumption is likely to be generally true but may be incorrect in a small number of cases.

It should also be noted that requests where a response has not yet been provided are more likely to involve considerations which are complex and finely balanced. As a result, it cannot be assumed that these requests will be granted and refused in the same proportions as "resolvable" requests in general.

TABLE 4

Exemptions and exceptions¹ applied by monitored bodies* when withholding non-routine information requests received from 1 April - 30 June 2009

Exemption / Exception ¹	Number of requests where exemption used		
	Departments of State only	Other monitored bodies	TOTAL
Total number of requests where one or more exemptions or exceptions were applied	887	1,168	2,055
Number of requests where each exemption (listed in Part II of FoI Act²) was applied			
S(22) - Information intended for future publication	133	17	150
S(23) - Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters	26	2	28
S(24) - National security	19	0	19
S(26) - Defence	15	0	15
S(27) - International relations	61	8	69
S(28) - Relations within the United Kingdom	0	0	0
S(29) - The economy	21	1	22
S(30) - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities	8	221	229
S(31) - Law enforcement	47	90	137
S(32) - Court records, etc	31	15	46
S(33) - Audit functions	1	5	6
S(34) - Parliamentary privilege	0	0	0
S(35) - Formulation of Government policy, etc	95	6	101
S(36) - Prejudice to effective conduct of public affairs	46	7	53
S(37) - Communications with Her Majesty, etc and honours	8	1	9
S(38) - Health and Safety	24	41	65
S(39) - Environmental information	_3	_3	_3
S(40) - Personal information	373	589	962
S(41) - Information provided in confidence	50	112	162
S(42) - Legal professional privilege	25	24	49
S(43) - Commercial interests	101	39	140
S(44) - Prohibitions on disclosure	22	148	170
Number of requests where each exception (listed in Part 3 of EIRs) was applied			
3(a) - Exempt personal data	6	12	18
4(b) - Manifestly unreasonable	1	2	3
4(c) - Too general	0	0	0
4(d) - Work in progress / incomplete data	3	4	7
4(e) - Internal communications	6	0	6
5(a) - Adverse effect on international relations, defence, national security, public safety	3	0	3
5(b) - Adverse effect on course of justice or conduct of enquiries	5	0	5
5(c) - Adverse effect on intellectual property rights	0	0	0
5(d) - Impinges on confidentiality of a public authority's work	3	0	3
5(e) - Impinges on confidentiality of commercial or industrial information	2	1	3
5(f) - Adverse effect on interests of person who provided the information	1	0	1
5(g) - Adverse effect on protection of environment to which information relates	0	0	0

Notes

* - A full list of monitored bodies is shown in Appendix B. This also includes details of those departments of state whose figures include non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves.

1 - "Exemptions" refers to the provisions in Part 2 of the Freedom of Information Act (and the similar "exceptions" in Part 3 of the Environmental Information Regulations) which classify certain types of information as exempt from the release obligations. More than one exemption or exception can apply to a single information request.

2 - The exemption described in section 21 of the Act ("Information accessible ... by other means") is not listed here, because requests falling under this exemption do not meet the formal definition of a "non-routine" request and therefore are not counted in these monitoring statistics.

3 - The exemption listed at section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act ("Environmental Information") effectively states that information requests which fall within the scope of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) should be handled as these Regulations specify. Requests for environmental information which are refused should apply one of the EIR exceptions listed above.

TABLE A

Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 April 2007

Government body	Total requests received								
	2007			2008				2009	
	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	7,988	7,580	7,804	8,429	8,865	8,825	8,764	10,294	9,964
TOTAL for Departments of State only	4,084	3,883	4,078	4,526	4,879	4,938	4,818	6,019	5,769
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	3,904	3,697	3,726	3,903	3,986	3,887	3,946	4,275	4,195
Departments of State									
Attorney General's Office	10	14	13	12	19	24	23	19	28
Cabinet Office	170	130	157	193	212	237	228	274	253
Communities and Local Government	119	154	136	150	191	183	174	204	200
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills ¹	-	114	142	135	184	223	195	216	269
Department for Children, Schools and Families	-	98	115	139	162	141	112	217	213
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	113	77	70	106	131	119	110	176	142
Department for Education and Skills	131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	75	106	100	101	116	121	108	131	145
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	-	11	20	22	39	71	59	74	-
Department for International Development	41	47	53	67	101	60	71	80	70
Department for Transport #	440	482	473	538	518	485	423	586	560
Department for Work and Pensions #	308	260	325	298	368	367	436	533	596
Department of Energy and Climate Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	55	54
Department of Health	311	310	260	329	343	345	332	423	485
Department of Trade and Industry	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deputy Prime Minister's Office	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Export Credits Guarantee Department	11	13	16	7	14	13	20	9	17
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	249	248	233	286	248	275	210	281	231
HM Treasury	267	241	268	293	447	324	350	446	399
Home Office #	512	417	420	470	510	509	508	643	638
Ministry of Defence #	830	667	739	718	635	685	654	758	670
Ministry of Justice #	304	455	464	580	542	676	670	757	679
Northern Ireland Office	51	25	36	45	50	45	41	65	49
Scotland Office	14	8	28	19	38	23	31	58	52
Wales Office	13	6	10	18	11	12	18	14	19

TABLE A continued

Number of non-routine information requests received by monitored bodies, by quarter, since 1 April 2007

Government body	Total requests received								
	2007			2008				2009	
	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun
Other bodies included in monitoring									
Central Office of Information	8	14	13	14	12	9	10	20	8
Charity Commission	120	79	106	125	114	128	142	142	133
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	41
Crown Prosecution Service	87	100	106	102	107	116	111	125	139
Debt Management Office ²	66	54	62	67	76	98	92	4	6
Food Standards Agency	24	26	24	31	27	20	29	28	29
Health and Safety Executive	1,355	1,531	1,471	1,584	1,742	1,559	1,574	1,711	1,669
HM Land Registry	17	12	27	17	29	25	24	33	41
HM Revenue and Customs	291	280	303	312	354	316	316	323	355
National Archives	1,376	1,026	1,064	1,004	823	1,002	950	1,056	885
National Savings and Investments	28	32	22	40	36	14	11	33	36
Office for National Statistics	33	31	34	24	17	30	27	32	29
Office for Standards in Education	191	188	227	240	259	225	332	318	317
Office of Fair Trading	64	96	68	66	86	82	61	79	128
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	45	39	28	46	41	31	28	53	39
Office of Rail Regulation	47	52	31	46	56	50	50	63	52
Ordnance Survey	32	27	36	33	53	53	44	37	60
Royal Mint	3	5	2	5	5	4	4	5	9
Rural Payments Agency	43	32	29	42	35	25	38	73	83
Serious Fraud Office	10	9	4	20	25	10	27	27	32
Treasury Solicitor's Department	48	51	52	79	66	69	61	55	69
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	16	13	17	6	23	21	15	25	35

Notes

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Appendix B gives full details.

1 - Figures up to and including Q1 2009 are for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Please see Appendix B for more information.

2 - Requests received by the Debt Management Office have been counted on a different basis in the statistics from Q1 2009 onwards compared to earlier periods. Please see Appendix B for more information.

TABLE B

Proportion of non-routine information requests received that were answered "in time", by quarter, since 1 April 2007 (see footnote)

Government body	Proportion of requests answered "in time" (see footnote)								
	2007			2008				2009	
	Q2: Apr-Jun	Q3: Jul-Sep	Q4: Oct-Dec	Q1: Jan-Mar	Q2: Apr-Jun	Q3: Jul-Sep	Q4: Oct-Dec	Q1: Jan-Mar	Q2: Apr-Jun
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	91%	92%	90%	89%	87%	88%	87%	86%	86%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	88%	91%	88%	86%	83%	84%	81%	81%	82%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	94%	92%	93%	92%	92%	93%	93%	95%	93%
Departments of State									
Attorney General's Office	*	*	*	*	*	92%	100%	*	96%
Cabinet Office	98%	97%	97%	96%	92%	96%	95%	96%	95%
Communities and Local Government	85%	90%	90%	87%	92%	93%	92%	94%	95%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills ¹	-	96%	92%	93%	88%	90%	77%	77%	76%
Department for Children, Schools and Families	-	91%	94%	94%	92%	92%	91%	87%	87%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	74%	79%	70%	82%	92%	95%	97%	100%	99%
Department for Education and Skills	92%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	81%	90%	88%	88%	80%	84%	99%	91%	85%
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	-	*	*	77%	64%	69%	58%	66%	-
Department for International Development	93%	96%	81%	82%	92%	93%	99%	96%	97%
Department for Transport #	88%	92%	91%	90%	87%	88%	92%	90%	90%
Department for Work and Pensions #	88%	92%	79%	70%	56%	62%	75%	77%	75%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	71%	84%	72%
Department of Health	88%	93%	91%	93%	89%	91%	83%	89%	96%
Department of Trade and Industry	83%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deputy Prime Minister's Office	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Export Credits Guarantee Department	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	98%	98%	97%	98%	98%	99%	94%	96%	97%
HM Treasury	93%	94%	97%	99%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%
Home Office #	88%	88%	88%	84%	83%	82%	78%	73%	65%
Ministry of Defence #	86%	89%	85%	86%	82%	86%	82%	66%	69%
Ministry of Justice #	91%	90%	88%	71%	65%	63%	51%	60%	71%
Northern Ireland Office	98%	88%	83%	81%	84%	93%	95%	97%	84%
Scotland Office	*	*	79%	*	89%	96%	68%	53%	67%
Wales Office	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

TABLE B continued

Proportion of non-routine information requests received that were answered "in time", by quarter, since 1 April 2007 (see footnote)

Government body	Proportion of requests answered "in time" (see footnote)								
	2007			2008				2009	
	Q2: Apr-Jun	Q3: Jul-Sep	Q4: Oct-Dec	Q1: Jan-Mar	Q2: Apr-Jun	Q3: Jul-Sep	Q4: Oct-Dec	Q1: Jan-Mar	Q2: Apr-Jun
Other bodies included in monitoring									
Central Office of Information	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Charity Commission	99%	96%	97%	90%	97%	98%	95%	99%	89%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36%	59%
Crown Prosecution Service	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	97%	100%	99%	98%
Debt Management Office ²	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*
Food Standards Agency	96%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	100%	100%	97%
Health and Safety Executive	90%	90%	91%	90%	92%	91%	91%	94%	93%
HM Land Registry	*	*	100%	*	97%	96%	88%	94%	80%
HM Revenue and Customs	81%	78%	71%	77%	77%	79%	87%	88%	83%
National Archives [^]	98%	95%	99%	96%	97%	95%	96%	98%	98%
National Savings and Investments	100%	100%	95%	100%	94%	*	*	94%	100%
Office for National Statistics	91%	90%	94%	96%	*	97%	96%	91%	93%
Office for Standards in Education	94%	95%	93%	95%	95%	96%	96%	98%	97%
Office of Fair Trading	91%	93%	97%	94%	97%	100%	98%	96%	95%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	96%	95%	93%	89%	100%	97%	86%	91%	77%
Office of Rail Regulation	98%	98%	97%	98%	96%	100%	98%	97%	92%
Ordnance Survey	94%	85%	83%	88%	85%	83%	93%	95%	98%
Royal Mint	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rural Payments Agency	88%	84%	79%	76%	77%	92%	84%	97%	88%
Serious Fraud Office	*	*	*	*	92%	*	100%	85%	63%
Treasury Solicitor's Department	100%	100%	96%	99%	100%	99%	100%	98%	100%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	*	*	*	*	87%	100%	*	56%	74%

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Appendix B gives full details.

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

[^] - Although the standard statutory deadline for responding to an information request is 20 working days, a 30-day deadline applies where requests relate wholly or partly to archived information. The National Archives' timeliness figures are therefore reported on this basis.

1 - Figures up to and including Q1 2009 are for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Please see Appendix B for more information.

2 - Requests received by the Debt Management Office have been counted on a different basis in the statistics from Q1 2009 onwards compared to earlier periods. Please see Appendix B for more information.

Notes

A request is "in time" if it was answered within the statutory response deadline, or within a permitted extension to this deadline.

Permitted extensions include:

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Freedom of Information Act is extended to allow for consideration of the balance of the public interest.

Requests where the 20-day deadline for response under the Environmental Information Regulations is extended because of the complexity or volume of the request.

Requests "on hold" or "lapsed" are those where a fee has been charged but no payment has been received. These requests are effectively suspended since public authorities are not obliged to respond until payment has been made. They are therefore excluded from this calculation.

TABLE C

Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 April 2007 (see footnote)

Government body	Proportion of requests granted in full								
	2007			2008				2009	
	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun
TOTAL for all monitored bodies	61%	58%	60%	58%	59%	57%	57%	56%	55%
TOTAL for Departments of State only	59%	57%	60%	57%	57%	56%	55%	55%	56%
TOTAL for other monitored bodies	63%	58%	60%	59%	61%	59%	59%	59%	55%
Departments of State									
Attorney General's Office	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Cabinet Office	35%	30%	29%	25%	25%	31%	23%	27%	23%
Communities and Local Government	71%	60%	61%	62%	57%	64%	78%	68%	72%
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills ¹	-	42%	45%	40%	40%	39%	25%	31%	40%
Department for Children, Schools and Families	-	70%	68%	59%	76%	63%	72%	69%	60%
Department for Culture, Media and Sport #	45%	55%	47%	63%	55%	60%	56%	60%	68%
Department for Education and Skills	67%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	55%	46%	64%	66%	60%	65%	75%	66%	71%
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	-	*	*	*	66%	62%	75%	65%	-
Department for International Development	57%	51%	64%	63%	67%	72%	89%	66%	64%
Department for Transport #	74%	71%	67%	73%	71%	69%	73%	76%	65%
Department for Work and Pensions #	83%	83%	83%	73%	73%	68%	77%	67%	64%
Department of Energy and Climate Change	-	-	-	-	-	-	39%	36%	48%
Department of Health	65%	62%	63%	70%	74%	73%	65%	68%	69%
Department of Trade and Industry	39%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deputy Prime Minister's Office	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Export Credits Guarantee Department	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	26%	26%	34%	34%	31%	35%	25%	28%	33%
HM Treasury	21%	27%	35%	33%	46%	46%	48%	41%	60%
Home Office #	51%	58%	49%	46%	51%	44%	47%	40%	41%
Ministry of Defence #	68%	68%	73%	70%	66%	67%	59%	59%	61%
Ministry of Justice #	41%	39%	45%	31%	33%	37%	33%	40%	36%
Northern Ireland Office	62%	*	46%	42%	41%	57%	48%	65%	53%
Scotland Office	*	*	81%	*	42%	*	54%	59%	67%
Wales Office	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

TABLE C continued

Proportion of resolvable non-routine information requests received that were granted in full, by quarter, since 1 April 2007 (see footnote)

Government body	Proportion of requests granted in full								
	2007			2008				2009	
	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun	Q3: Jul–Sep	Q4: Oct–Dec	Q1: Jan–Mar	Q2: Apr–Jun
Other bodies included in monitoring									
Central Office of Information	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Charity Commission	53%	51%	61%	66%	44%	51%	60%	65%	56%
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69%	58%
Crown Prosecution Service	59%	31%	26%	46%	36%	33%	48%	56%	48%
Debt Management Office ²	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*
Food Standards Agency	43%	48%	32%	45%	52%	*	19%	36%	40%
Health and Safety Executive	52%	48%	46%	49%	50%	54%	55%	51%	55%
HM Land Registry	*	*	100%	*	93%	96%	95%	97%	95%
HM Revenue and Customs	47%	47%	55%	50%	53%	56%	63%	67%	50%
National Archives	84%	78%	82%	77%	85%	67%	64%	71%	60%
National Savings and Investments	91%	92%	*	92%	81%	*	*	94%	74%
Office for National Statistics	48%	50%	57%	*	*	64%	*	63%	*
Office for Standards in Education	44%	38%	45%	47%	60%	44%	48%	45%	46%
Office of Fair Trading	48%	42%	33%	25%	27%	17%	20%	22%	21%
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)	52%	58%	*	64%	77%	*	*	62%	54%
Office of Rail Regulation	78%	62%	65%	83%	75%	68%	69%	78%	87%
Ordnance Survey	65%	67%	78%	85%	80%	84%	72%	63%	66%
Royal Mint	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Rural Payments Agency	41%	*	57%	57%	53%	*	72%	68%	67%
Serious Fraud Office	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Treasury Solicitor's Department	100%	93%	94%	68%	74%	75%	67%	29%	63%
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	73%	68%

- Figures supplied by these departments of state count non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. Appendix B gives full details.

* - These percentages are not shown because the number of qualifying requests is 20 or fewer.

1 - Figures up to and including Q1 2009 are for the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Please see Appendix B for more information.

2 - Requests received by the Debt Management Office have been counted on a different basis in the statistics from Q1 2009 onwards compared to earlier periods. Please see Appendix B for more information.

Notes

"Resolvable requests" are all those where it would have been possible to provide a substantive response. They exclude requests which are lapsed or "on-hold", where the information was not held, and where it was necessary to provide advice and assistance to the requester, since in each of these cases it would not have been possible to resolve the request in the form it was asked.

Appendix A – Important note on the scope and consistency of the statistics

Defining the scope of Freedom of Information monitoring

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol) states that (subject to certain conditions):

“Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled—

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and

(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him”

Regulation 5 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 states that (subject to certain conditions):

“A public authority that holds environmental information shall make it available on request.”

Following their introduction on 1 January 2005, the above provisions apply to all relevant requests for information made to public authorities, no matter how routine and straightforward they may be.

Government departments supply large amounts of information, both on request and proactively, as an established and routine part of their business. This includes information released in the form of leaflets, correspondence exchanges, reports and other published material, and through websites and departmental Fol Publication Schemes. All information released on request is covered by the Freedom of Information Act. However, it would be both uninformative and fundamentally unfeasible to count all such activity in departmental Freedom of Information monitoring returns.

The statistics in this bulletin therefore relate only to **the “non-routine” information requests** that government departments have received. Essentially, this means that departments’ statistics should only count those requests where:

1. it was necessary to take a considered view on how to handle the request under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, and
2. departmental Freedom of Information officer(s) were informed of the request and logged it in their case management systems.

Defining a request

The full definition of an “information request” for the purposes of inclusion in the Ministry of Justice’s monitoring returns is shown below. This definition was circulated to members of the central government “Freedom of Information Practitioners’ Group” in November 2004.

“[An information request for monitoring purposes is one ...]

1. *Which meets the criteria in section 8 of the Freedom of Information Act and if the request falls under the Environmental Information Regulations it includes requests made in any form or context, including oral requests; **and***
2. *Which is a request for information that is not already reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means; **and***
 - (i) Which results in the release of one or more documents (in any media) or inclusion of extracts of documents in the information released; **or***
 - (ii) Results in information being withheld under an exemption or exception from the right of access (either the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations); **or***
 - (iii) The request is not processed because the department estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit in accordance with section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act; **or***
 - (iv) The request is not processed because the department is relying on the provisions of section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act; **or***
 - (v) Where a search is made for information sought in the request and it is found that none is held.”*

Consistency of the statistics

It is necessary to apply a definition of this sort in order to set a clear boundary to the coverage of our monitoring, and thereby obtain meaningful information from the process. The definition shown above has been widely disseminated to Freedom of Information officers in government and we have tried to ensure that it is applied consistently across all monitored bodies.

However, there is considerable variation in the way these bodies are structured and managed, and in the mechanisms that they have put in place to meet their obligations under the Freedom of Information Act. For example, some bodies operate a centralised Freedom of Information secretariat that co-ordinates responses to all information requests received. Others give a greater degree of autonomy to individual work areas in the handing of information requests.

As a result of these differences, **there is likely to be a degree of inconsistency** in the way in which bodies have interpreted and applied the definition of an “information request” for monitoring purposes. Although we cannot estimate the extent or effect of the likely inconsistency, it is very important to bear in mind when using the figures in this bulletin, particularly when comparing statistics for individual bodies.

In summary, it is important to note that:

- (i) These statistics only cover “non-routine” information requests, and do not give a representative picture of all requests for information received in government.**
- (ii) There is likely to be a degree of inconsistency between monitored bodies’ interpretations of the definition of an “information request” for monitoring purposes. This should be borne in mind when using these statistics.**

Appendix B – Government bodies included in these statistics

The statistics in this bulletin have been derived from monitoring returns completed by Freedom of Information officers in government departments during August 2009. This is the latest set of quarterly Freedom of Information statistics to be published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the government department which now has lead responsibility for the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The first eight bulletins in this series were published by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

The formal monitoring work covers a total of 43 government bodies, including all major departments of state (i.e. Ministerial departments).

The monitored bodies which are not departments of state nonetheless have significant policymaking, regulatory or information-handling functions. As far as possible, this list includes major non-Ministerial Government Departments (NMGDs) and excludes Executive Agencies, although these classifications are not mutually exclusive and periodic “Machinery of Government” changes make it difficult to define the list precisely.

Coverage within the UK

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Office and the Wales Office are included in these statistics. However, we have not collected formal monitoring data from the National Assembly for Wales, or from the bodies that make up the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 applies in Scotland. This legislation lies outside the scope of the monitoring work on which this bulletin is based. However, the Scotland Office has been included here because, although it deals with matters relating to Scotland, it is based in England and hence falls under the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 rather than the corresponding Scottish legislation.

The following is a full list of the bodies covered by the monitoring statistics in the second quarter of 2009.

Departments of State

- Attorney General’s Office
- Cabinet Office
- Communities and Local Government
- Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
- Department for Children, Schools and Families
- Department for Culture, Media and Sport
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Department for International Development
- Department for Transport

Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Department of Health
Export Credits Guarantee Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
HM Treasury
Home Office
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice
Northern Ireland Office
Scotland Office
Wales Office

Other monitored bodies

Central Office of Information
Charity Commission
Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission
Crown Prosecution Service
Debt Management Office
Food Standards Agency
Health and Safety Executive and Commission
HM Land Registry
HM Revenue and Customs
National Archives
National Savings and Investments
Office for National Statistics
Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED)
Office of Fair Trading
Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM)
Office of Rail Regulation
Ordnance Survey
Royal Mint
Rural Payments Agency
Serious Fraud Office
Treasury Solicitor's Department
Water Services Regulation Authority (OFWAT)

Notes

1. The following departmental changes occurred between the beginning of April 2007 and the end of June 2009, the period covered by the in-year performance and volume tables (Tables A, B and C) in this bulletin.

On 2 April 2007, the functions of the **Privy Council Office (PCO)** were split between the Cabinet Office and the Department for Constitutional Affairs (now the Ministry of Justice). No separate monitoring statistics have therefore been collected for the PCO from Q2 of 2007 onwards.

On 9 May 2007, the **Ministry of Justice (MoJ)** was created, assuming the responsibilities of the former Department for Constitutional Affairs

(DCA), as well as the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) from the Home Office. The statistics for MoJ comprise information requests received by the DCA prior to 9 May 2007 and requests received by all parts of MoJ since that date. Information requests received by NOMS and OCJR prior to the transfer of responsibilities on 9 May 2007 have been counted under the Home Office, of which they were a part at the time the request was initially received.

Requests relating to the Deputy Prime Minister received up to 28 June 2007 are counted against the **Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO)**, which was abolished on that date.

Three new departments of state were created on 28 June 2007. These were the **Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)**, the **Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS)**, and the **Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR)**. They replaced the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). In the Q2 2007 statistics, information requests received by DCSF and DIUS on 28 and 29 June 2007, the last two working days of the quarter, were counted under the figures for DfES. Requests to BERR on these last two days of Q2 2007 were counted under the figures for DTI. The three new departments have been separately identified in the statistics since Q3 2007.

The **Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)** was created on 3 October 2008, bringing together responsibilities previously held by BERR and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Q4 2008 figures for DECC relate to information requests received by the department between 3 October 2008 and 31 December 2008. Information requests relating to these responsibilities received on 1 and 2 October are counted under BERR or Defra as appropriate.

The **Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC)** was created in October 2008, and has assumed responsibility for the Child Support Agency (CSA), previously an executive agency of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) whose requests were included within the DWP statistics. Requests to CMEC in Q4 2008 were included under the figures for DWP. Requests to CMEC are separately identified for the first time in the Q1 2009 statistics.

The **Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)** was created on 5 June 2009, bringing together the responsibilities previously held by BERR and DIUS. The Q2 statistics for BIS include requests received by BERR and DIUS between 1 April and 4 June. The figures in Tables A, B and C for earlier quarters relate to requests received by BERR.

2. Cabinet Office figures include requests that were addressed to 10 Downing Street.

3. The statistics on requests received by the Debt Management Office (DMO) have been counted on a different basis from Q1 2009 onwards compared to earlier quarters. It was identified that the figures for 2008 and earlier years included a significant number of public enquiries which do not fall under the definition of “non-routine” used for these monitoring statistics. For Q1 2009 onwards, the DMO’s figures only report on “non-routine” information requests as required, but it has not been possible to revise figures for previous quarters. This definitional difference should be borne in mind when comparing DMO’s statistics since Q1 2009 with those for earlier periods.
4. The figures provided by a number of Departments of State count the non-routine information requests received by one or more of their agencies, as well those received by the departments themselves. The departments and agencies affected are shown below.

Department for Transport

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

- Driving Standards Agency
- Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency
- Highways Agency
- Marine and Coastguard Agency
- Vehicle Certification Agency
- Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Department for Work and Pensions

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

- Appeals Agency
- Disability Carers Service
- Jobcentre plus
- Pension Service
- Rent Service

Department for Culture Media and Sport

Figures include requests received by the Royal Parks Agency.

Home Office

From 2006 onwards, figures include requests received by the Criminal Records Bureau, the Borders and Immigration Agency, and the UK Passport Service. The latter agency was absorbed within the Identity and Passport Service from 1 April 2006. Previously-supplied figures for the year 2005 only included requests received by the Home Office itself.

Ministry of Defence

Figures include requests received by the following agencies:

ABRO (Army Base Repair Organisation) (Trading Fund)
Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency
Army Training and Recruiting Agency
British Forces Post Office
Defence Analytical Services Agency
Defence Aviation Repair Agency (Trading Fund)
Defence Bills Agency
Defence Communications Services Agency
Defence Estates
Defence Medical Education and Training Agency
Defence Procurement Agency
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Trading Fund)
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency
Defence Transport and Movements Agency
Defence Vetting Agency
Disposal Services Agency
Duke of York's Royal Military School
Met Office (Trading Fund)
Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency
Naval Recruiting and Training Agency
Pay and Personnel Agency
RAF Training Group Defence Agency
Service Children's Education
UK Hydrographic Office (Trading Fund)
Veterans Agency

Ministry of Justice

Figures include requests received by HM Court Service where they were referred to the department's Data Access and Compliance Unit.

Explanatory notes

1. The statistics in this bulletin relate to the handling by central government bodies of information requests received under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (Fol Act) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). They are collected and published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), with assistance from Freedom of Information officers across central government.
2. The Fol Act received Royal Assent on 30 November 2000. Under the Act, anybody may request information from a public authority which has functions in England, Wales and/or Northern Ireland. The Act confers two statutory rights on applicants:
 - To be told whether or not the public authority holds that information; and if so,
 - To have that information communicated to them.

These statutory rights came into force on 1 January 2005. The MoJ is the lead department responsible for the Fol Act. Further information is available at:

www.foi.gov.uk/index.htm

3. The (amended) EIRs also came into force on 1 January 2005, to coincide with the Fol Act. They clarify and extend previous rights to environmental information held by public authorities. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the lead department responsible for the EIRs. Further information is available from their website at:
www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/opengov/eir/index.htm
4. These statistics are derived from monitoring returns submitted to MoJ in August 2009. They relate to information requests received during the period 1 April to 30 June 2009. The collection of monitoring data began on the 21st working day after the last day of this period (i.e. on 29 July 2009), since 20 working days is the statutory deadline for public authorities to respond to information requests under both the Fol Act and the EIRs.
5. Only “non-routine” information requests are counted in these statistics. Important notes on the scope and consistency of these statistics are given in **Appendix A**.
6. These statistics cover a total of 43 central government bodies. At the commencement of the Act in January 2005 there were also 43 bodies covered by the monitoring statistics, but the precise number can change from time to time due to “Machinery of Government” changes. A full list of the monitored bodies in Q2 2009 is shown in **Appendix B**.

7. This is the eighteenth quarterly statistical bulletin on the implementation of the FoI Act. This publication has been prepared jointly by the Constitution and Access to Justice Analytical Services division and the Information Directorate of the Ministry of Justice.

Symbols and conventions

The following symbols have been used throughout the tables in this bulletin:

- = Not applicable
0 = Nil

Contact points for further information

Press enquires on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act in a particular government body should be addressed to that body's Press Office.

Press enquiries on the contents of this bulletin should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office:

Anna Sinfield

Tel: 020 3334 3535

Email: anna.sinfield@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics or queries on the Freedom of Information Act 2000 should be directed to:

Information Directorate
Ministry of Justice
6th Floor
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
Tel: 020 3334 3911
Email: informationrights@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General enquiries about the statistical work of the Ministry of Justice can be e-mailed to: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

General information about the official statistics system of the UK is available from www.statistics.gov.uk

© Crown copyright
Produced by the Ministry of Justice

Alternative formats are available on request from
statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk