
Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2007-08 – Annexe G of
HC836

Freedom of Information/Data Protection – January 2007 – December 2007

Freedom of Information

Under the Freedom of Information Act, anybody may request information from a public authority, such as the OFT, which has functions in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. The Act also requires public bodies to make information available through a publication scheme – the OFT's publication scheme sets out the information we publish and how it can be obtained (much of it is available on our website and is free of charge).

We aim to be open and transparent about our work, and provide as much information as possible. However, we are not permitted to disclose certain information we receive in the course of carrying out our duties. We may also withhold information if we believe doing so would serve the public interest better than disclosing it, or if disclosing the information would be an unlawful breach of confidence.

The FOIA statistics below have been collated in accordance with the time scales required by the Ministry of Justice. For the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 the OFT received 324 requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Of these:

Number of Requests granted in full	95
Number of requests where advice and assistance were provided to the requester	67
Number of requests that were refused in full because the Office does not hold any of it	31
Number of requests which were considered vexatious	01
Number of requests refused because the cost of the response would exceed the appropriate limit	01
Number of requests where the Office refused part of the information	37
Number of requests where the Office refused all of the information requested	92

We responded to 95 per cent of all requests within the statutory 20 day period.

We also received and responded to eight appeals ('internal reviews') against non-disclosure. In seven cases the original decision was upheld; in the other one it was partially upheld.

Where we decide not to disclose, the person making the request has a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner. There were two of these appeals during 2007, but the Information Commissioner has not ruled yet on whether or not he upholds the Office original decision to refuse disclosure of the information.

Any requests for information from those unable to access our website or find the information they are looking for can be sent in writing to:

FoIA/DPA Coordinator
OFT Information Access Team
Room 4C/046
Fleetbank House
2–6 Salisbury Square
London EC4Y 8JX

Or by email to:

Information AccessTeam@oft.gsi.gov.uk

Data protection

The Office also received and responded to 80 requests for personal information made under the Data Protection Act, and one request for an internal review.

Requests for personal information held under the Data Protection Act should be sent to the same address as above.