

Annexe G

Freedom of Information/Data Protection – January 2006 to December 2006

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 and/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 have been collated in accordance with the time scales required by the Department of Constitutional Affairs. For the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 the OFT received 273 requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Of these:

Number of Requests granted in full	62
Number of requests where advice and assistance were provided to the requester	31
Number of requests that were refused in full because the Office does not hold any of it	85
Number of requests which were considered vexatious	1
Number of requests refused because the cost of the response would exceed the appropriate limit	2
Number of requests where the Office refused part of the information	43
Number of requests where the Office refused all of the information requested	49

We responded to 91 per cent of requests within the statutory 20 day period.

We received and responded to six appeals against non-disclosure. In all six cases the original decision was upheld.

Where we decide not to disclose, the person making the request has a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner. There was one such appeal during 2006. The Information Commissioner upheld the Office’s decision. The requester then appealed to the Information Tribunal which also upheld the original decision of the OFT and the Information Commissioner.

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
Location 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 21 requests for personal information made under the Data Protection Act.

Requests under the Data Protection Act should be sent to the same address as above.