
Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2008-09 – Annexe G

Freedom of information/data protection – January 2008 to December 2008

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 2008 to 31 December 2008 the OFT received 295 requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Of these:

Number of Requests granted in full - **52**

Number of requests where advice and assistance were provided to the requester - **52**

Number of requests that were refused in full because the Office does not hold any of it - **12**

Number of requests which were considered vexatious - **0**

Number of requests refused because the cost of the response would exceed the appropriate limit - **0**

Number of requests where the Office refused part of the information - **21**

Number of requests where the Office refused all of the information requested - **154**

We responded to **96** per cent of all requests within the statutory 20 day period. We also received and responded to 11 appeals ('internal reviews')

against non-disclosure. In 10 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 three appeals during 2008 but only in one of these has the Information Commissioner given his ruling when he partially upheld the Office's 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
Room GS3
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 **92** requests for personal information made under the Data Protection Act. Requests for personal information held under the Data Protection Act should be sent to the same address as above.