



Ministry of Justice

Chris Johnson
Community Law Partnership

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Freedom of Information Request

Dear Mr Johnson,

Thank you for your email of 20 September, in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). You stated that all information was for England and Wales since 1 April 2013:

- 1. How many Exceptional Funding Applications under S.10 have there been in all areas of law since the above date?**
- 2. How many of those applications have involved Housing cases?**
- 3. In how many of those applications involving all areas of law has Exceptional Funding been granted?**
- 4. In how many of those applications involving Housing cases has Exceptional Funding been granted?**
- 5. Taking the time from April 1st 2013 until this request what was the Ministry of Justice's prediction as to the number of Exceptional Funding applications that would have been granted within this period of time?**

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

I will answer each of your questions in turn. Please note that the figures provided are correct as of the end of August 2013.

- 1. How many Exceptional Funding Applications under S.10 have there been in all areas of law since the above date?**

602 applications have been received.

- 2. How many of those applications have involved Housing cases?**

37 of these applications related to Housing/Land law.

- 3. In how many of those applications involving all areas of law has Exceptional Funding been granted?**

11 applications have been granted.

- 4. In how many of those applications involving Housing cases has Exceptional Funding been granted?**

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1 Housing/Land law application has been granted.

5. Taking the time from April 1st 2013 until this request what was the Ministry of Justice's prediction as to the number of Exceptional Funding applications that would have been granted within this period of time?

The MoJ made no estimate for the volume of grants in this period and the information you have requested is therefore not held. Please be advised that the FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. It does not place a duty upon public authorities to answer a question unless recorded information exists. The FOIA duty is to only provide the recorded information held.

You can find out more about information held for the purposes of the Act by reading some guidance points we consider when processing a request for information, attached at the end of this letter.

You can also find more information by reading the full text of the Act, available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>.

You have the right to appeal our decision if you think it is incorrect. Details can be found in the 'How to Appeal' section attached at the end of this letter.

Disclosure Log

You can also view information that the Ministry of Justice has disclosed in response to previous Freedom of Information requests. Responses are anonymised and published on our on-line disclosure log which can be found on the gov.uk website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/freedom-of-information-disclosure-log>

Yours sincerely

Nicola Murchie

How to Appeal

Internal Review

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to an internal review. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will make a decision as to whether we answered your request correctly.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to the Data Access and Compliance Unit within two months of the date of this letter, at the following address:

Data Access and Compliance Unit (10.34),
Information & Communications Directorate,
Ministry of Justice,
102 Petty France,
London
SW1H 9AJ

E-mail: data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Information Commissioner's Office

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct us to respond to your request differently, if he considers that we have handled it incorrectly.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Internet address: https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact_us.aspx

EXPLANATION OF INFORMATION HELD FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ACT

We have provided below additional information for information held for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. We have included some of the guidance we use when considering requests for information. I hope you find this information useful.

Is the information 'held' for the purposes of the Act?

A person may request any information 'held' in any recorded form by a public authority (or held by another on behalf of a public authority).

If the requester is asking for an opinion on an issue or asking for information that is not already held to be created, this is not a Freedom of Information Act request.

Information covered by the Act

All recorded information 'held' by a public authority is within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act. It includes files, letters, emails and photographs and extends to closed files and archived material.

Recorded information

The right of access applies to information recorded in any form. This includes:

- information that is held electronically (such as on a laptop computer or an electronic records management system)
- information that is recorded on paper (such as a letter, memorandum or papers in a file)
- sound and video recordings (such as a CD or videotape)
- hand-written notes or comments, including those written in note pads or on Post-it notes

Is the information 'held' under the Freedom of Information Act?

'Holding' information includes holding a copy of a record produced or supplied by someone else. However, if a public authority only holds information on behalf of someone else, for example a department holding trade union information on their computer system, then that public authority may not have to provide the information in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

In some cases, it may not be clear whether information which is physically present on your premises or systems is properly to be regarded as 'held' by your public authority, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. Examples include:

- private material brought into the office by ministers or officials
- material belonging to other people or bodies
- trade union material
- constituency material
- material relating to party political matters.