

1 February 2024

## **IC-280886-M7L8**

### **Request**

You asked us:

*"Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following relevant information:*

- the number of all complaints made regarding MPs in the last five years,*
- the gender of said MPs*
- the ethnicity of said MPs*
- and whether these complaints were upheld as vexatious or dismissed due to lack of evidence."*

We received your request on 10 January 2024.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

### **Our response**

I can confirm that we hold some information in scope of your request.

In respect of your first question, the number of complaints made regarding MPs in the last five years, I can confirm that we currently hold 132 data protection complaints and seven FOIA complaints regarding Members of Parliament. This is not necessarily the total number of complaints received over the last five years, as complaint cases are generally deleted two years after closure in line with our [retention policy](#).

With regards to your second and third questions, regarding the gender and ethnicity of complained-about MPs, I can confirm that we do not hold information in scope of your request. We do not record gender and ethnicity data for complained-about parties.

Finally, with regards to your fourth question, regarding whether these complaints were upheld or dismissed, I can confirm that in respect of the data protection complaints, 63 had their outcome recorded as 'informal action taken', 62 as 'no further action', and seven are 'unassigned', meaning they are currently ongoing.

With respect of the FOIA complaints, all of these are marked as 'no further action'. This is because MPs are not public authorities for the purposes of FOIA and are not subject to the legislation.

More information on completed complaints cases can be found via our [datasets](#). These contain more detailed information on each closed complaint, and can be filtered by subsector if you wish to know more about how we have handled complaints about MPs.

This concludes our response to your request.

### **Next steps**

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure [here](#).

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint through our website](#).

### **Your information**

Our [privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and sets out [your rights](#). Our [Retention and Disposal Policy](#) details how long we keep information.

Yours sincerely



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