

9 April 2024

## **Case Reference IC-293137-K4Y5**

### **Request**

You asked us a number of questions about the ICO.

We received your request on 10 March 2024.

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

### **Our response**

Some of the information you have requested is technically exempt under section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible by other means than making a request to us. In these cases, we have provided some links where you can find the information.

For ease of reference, we've listed your questions below, and we've provided our answers underneath them. Please find our responses on the following pages.

**"1. How many fines were imposed overall in 2023 for breaking data privacy regulations in your jurisdiction?"**

This information is already accessible on our website.

Please find the following link to our 'Enforcement action' page:

[https://ico.org.uk/action-weve-taken/enforcement/?facet\\_type=Monetary+penalties&facet\\_sector=&facet\\_date=&date\\_from=&date\\_to=](https://ico.org.uk/action-weve-taken/enforcement/?facet_type=Monetary+penalties&facet_sector=&facet_date=&date_from=&date_to=)

**2. What was the total monetary amount of the fines in 2023?**

This information is already accessible on our website via the link provided to the previous question.

You can derive the total monetary amount by checking each monetary penalty notice.

**3. Do the fines go towards the general budget of the state, or are the fines destined exclusively for the Data Protection Authority budget?**

We collect the monetary penalties, but we then pay them into the UK government's consolidated fund, after netting off the appropriate legal costs.

This information is already accessible on our website: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/how-we-are-funded/>

Our Annual Reports also provide details of our finances and our enforcement action: <https://ico.org.uk/media/about-the-ico/documents/4025864/annual-report-2022-23.pdf>

**4. What are the different units or departments that comprise the Data Protection Authority? What are the general functions and responsibilities of each unit or department?**

Please find the table below, and the attached PDF document.

The attached PDF provides a table of our specific teams, and a description of what they do. The descriptions are derived from each team's pages on our intranet.

The table below contains a list of departments and employee numbers (as of **28 March 2024**). The departments/teams are named according to their cost centre names (required for Finance/HR purposes). The more detailed, reflective structure of the ICO is in the attached PDF.

Department Name	Employees
Information Commissioner	5
NEDS	10
Deputy Commissioner - Reg Supervision	6
Investigations	93
Regulatory Cyber	3
Assurance	43
FOI & Transparency	74
Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer	4
Executive Director, Strategic Communications & Public Affairs	33
Finance, Estates & Procurement	30
People Services	50
Public Affairs	35
Risk & Governance	43
Public Advice & DP Complaints	174
General Counsel	4
Legal Services - Policy Advice & Commercial	14
Legal Services - Policy Advice	9
Legal Services - Litigation	12
Legal Services - Enforcement and FOIA	24

Legal Services - Enforcement	15
Executive Director, Strategic Planning & Transformation	3
Knowledge & Internal Communications	21
Strategy & Planning	4
Intelligence	16
Delivery	43
Exec Director of Regulatory Risk	2
Tech & Innovation	73
Deputy Commissioner, Regulatory Policy	3
Regulatory Policy Projects	43
Legislative Reform	6
Economic Analysis	16
Regulatory Design	3
International	16
Exec Director for Corporate Digital, Data and Tech	4
Digital & IT	64
Executive Director, Customer Experience & Transparency	3
Business Services	128
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1129</b>

***5. How many workers do you have? What is their degree of undergraduate and graduate training?***

Please find the total in the above table. This information is correct as of **28 March 2024**.

Please note that in the first row there is an entry of five employees against 'Information Commissioner,' but to be clear, there is only one Information Commissioner. The others will be separate roles.

We do not hold information about the degree of undergraduate and graduate training. We will require some roles to have a degree qualification, but not all of them. So, we do not have this information for all staff, and so we cannot provide an indication of the overall degree of undergraduate and graduate training.

**6. Are they exclusively lawyers, or are they also other types of technicians? If they hold another technical training, please specify which.**

The ICO does have lawyers, but it is not exclusively made up of lawyers. The Information Commissioner has a statutory role under the Data Protection Act 2018, and the functions are delegated to ICO staff. They are employed to carry out a range of roles, such as operational, policy-based, technology and corporate support roles.

We do not hold a complete overview of the technical training which may have been achieved by ICO staff.

Courses can be enrolled on and added to staff records on our system, and there will be staff in areas such as legal services and cyber security which hold professional qualifications. Some roles will also require specific qualifications and we will keep a record of them in personal files for staff, however we do not keep that information in our system for all our staff for our business purposes, so we are not able to provide you information which would answer this part of your request.

**7. How many physical offices has the Data Protection Authority?**

The ICO uses seven physical sites.

However, in terms of bases of work for the ICO, we have five "office" bases around the UK (Wilmslow, London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast).

**8. In the event that the Data Protection Authority has more than one office, are the functions of the offices full or partial in relation to the headquarters?**

Our head office is in Wilmslow. We also have a London office, and we have regional offices in Scotland (Edinburgh), Wales (Cardiff) and Northern Ireland (Belfast).

All the offices are used by ICO staff to carry out functions or provide support for the Information Commissioner, however there are some differences in what kind of work will be done at the various offices, for example, the regional teams will cover areas of work which are geared towards their particular region.

Information about what our regional teams do is already accessible on our website:

Scotland: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/scotland-office/>

Wales: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/wales-office/>

Northern Ireland: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/who-we-are/northern-ireland-office/>

**9. When imposing penalties for breaking data privacy regulations, is there a second instance within the Data Protection Authority before challenging the decision in a court?**

We do allow the data controller to make representations to us before we issue a penalty notice to them.

This information is already accessible on our website. Please find **page 25** of our Regulatory Action Policy: <https://ico.org.uk/media/about-the-ico/documents/2259467/regulatory-action-policy.pdf>

**10. Does the organization hold certifications for standardization? (ISO, ICONTEC, CAF, etc.)."**

We maintain certification to Cyber Essentials and Cyber Essentials Plus. The scope applies to our whole organisation and is renewed on an annual basis.

## 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](#) on our website.

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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