

3 May 2024

IC-298843-T2T3

Request

You asked us:

"1) How many staff (Full Time-Equivalent) worked for the ICO, in (e.g. March of) 2009, 2014, 2019, 2024, on the following cases/categories:

--FOI complaints + decisions

--SAR + data complaints

--court-cases

--any other casework

--other administrative work

2) Where can I find (or can you provide me with) the volume of cases (submitted) that the ICO had to deal with, in each of these years, i.e. in 2009, 2014, 2019, + in the 12months leading up to April of 2024?

For both, I hope it is possible to break things down by those categories, + for each year."

We received your request on 8 April 2024.

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

Our response

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

You have requested the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff working on particular areas of the ICO, including staff that carry out any administrative work. All staff members carry out administrative tasks in different capacities. We have therefore considered the head count for all departments.

Please find attached a complete list of departments in each year and the number of FTE employees for each department. This information has been extracted from the 31 March in each of the years requested.

As you will see, over time the structure and names of departments at the ICO have changed. The lists are therefore not comparable as job roles have moved and fall under different departments. For example, lawyers working at the ICO in 2009 are included within the department that they specialised in, and in 2024 we have separate legal departments. We are therefore unable to provide you with the information within the format that you have requested.

You have also requested information about our caseloads within each year. This information is published in our annual reports, please see the links below which will direct you to the annual reports for the years requested:

- [2009/2010](#)
- [2014/2015](#)

Our most recent annual report is 2022/2023 which is available [here](#).

Because the information is already reasonably accessible to you, technically it is withheld under section 21 of the FOIA. Section 21 states that we don't need to provide you with a copy of information when you already have access to it.

As can be seen in the 2022/2023 report, we publish our annual reports in July each year. The information for the 2023/2024 financial year has therefore not been published yet but is due to be published in the next few months.

As this information is due to be published in the near future, we are withholding the information in relation to our caseloads pursuant to section 22 of the FOIA. This exempts information which is held with a view to its publication at a future date and when it is reasonable in that the information should be withheld from disclosure until that date.

The exemption at section 22 is qualified by the public interest test, meaning that the information should be disclosed if the public interest in the maintenance of the exemption does not outweigh the public interest in disclosure.

In this case the public interest factor in disclosing the information is:

- a general public interest in the caseloads that the ICO has dealt with in this financial year.

The factors in favour of withholding the information are:

- the ICO has a history of publishing this information on a yearly basis which will include the relevant information soon (and at that point the information will be in the public domain), there is a clear commitment to publishing this information within a short timescale;
- the information is not readily available, to prepare this information for disclosure earlier than our intended date of publication would be a duplication of work and not be an efficient use of resources when we intend to publish this information in due course; and
- earlier disclosure is not necessary to satisfy any pressing public interest at the present time.

Having considered the public interest arguments, we have decided to withhold this information in reference to section 22 of the FOIA.

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](#) 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,



Information Access Team
Strategic Planning and Transformation
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water
Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF
ico.org.uk twitter.com/iconews
Please consider the environment before printing this email
**For information about what we do with personal
data see our [privacy notice](#)**