

23 July 2024

ICO Case Reference IC-317296-M3H0

Request for information

Request received 24 June 2024:

"Would you now please be so good as to provide us with the following information:

- 1. How many companies are registered with Companies House.*
- 2. How many companies have registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.*
- 3. How many companies have registered as exempt."*

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA). This legislation provides public access to recorded information held by a public authority unless an appropriate exemption applies.

Our response

For clarity, we will respond to each of your questions in turn.

1. How many companies are registered with Companies House.

The register of companies with Companies House is held and maintained by Companies House, not the ICO. This means that our response to this portion of your request is that no information is held by the ICO.

However, this information can be obtained directly from Companies House, who regularly publish the number of companies registered with them on the 'Research and Statistics' page of gov.uk.

This concludes our response to this portion of your request.

2. How many companies have registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

The ICO publishes the register of all organisations who have paid a data protection fee on our website: <https://ico.org.uk/about-the-ico/what-we-do/register-of-fee-payers/download-the-register/>

The register is updated daily. At the time of responding to your request there were 1,048,576 organisations registered as fee payers.

Please be advised that this number is highly likely to change because the register is updated daily.

Because this material is already reasonably accessible to you, it is technically withheld under section 21 of the FOIA. This exempts information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant through means other than a request under the FOIA.

It is an absolute exemption, which means it is not necessary for us to consider any public interest test.

This concludes our response to this part of your request.

3. How many companies have registered as exempt

In correspondence to organisations we ask them to complete an exemption form to notify us that they are exempt from paying a fee. As your information request was made in response to such a letter, we have interpreted "registered as exempt" to mean organisations that have completed the exemption notification form.

Currently there are 50,958 organisations that have completed the form to notify the ICO that they are exempt from paying a data protection fee. Please be advised that because these forms are self-reported, this number may not accurately reflect whether or not the organisations are exempt from paying the fee.

Additionally, organisations are not required to complete the form to notify us if they are exempt and so this number does not reflect the total number of organisations in the UK who are not required to pay a fee.

We hope this information is useful to you.

This concludes our response to your request.

Next steps

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

You can read a copy of our review procedure on our website at <https://ico.org.uk/media/about-the-ico/policies-and-procedures/>.

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 at <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>.

Your information

Our privacy notice (<https://ico.org.uk/global/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. You can view this at <https://ico.org.uk/media/about-the-ico/policies-and-procedures/>.

Yours sincerely

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For information about what we do with personal data see our privacy notice