

4 September 2024

Reference number: IC-325059-C2Y3

Request

You asked us: *"I'd like to know what percentage of human resources the regulator allocates specifically to FOIA 2000 oversight, guidance, and enforcement."*

We received your request on 9 August 2024.

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

Our response

Having searched our records, we can confirm that we do not hold information in the scope of your request. This is because we do not hold percentages of how many staff are in certain teams versus our total amount of staff.

As well as this, the ICO does not necessarily 'allocate' staff to handle FOIA related matters. The ICO receives a [grant-in-aid](#) (GiA) which is used to complete any necessary work into the FOIA, as well as other legislations.

As the GiA is a fixed amount this places a limit on the amount of staff that can complete our oversight, guidance and enforcement of the FOIA. This means that while staff are employed by the ICO to handle FOIA related matters, the number of staff allocated to do this has not necessarily been decided upon by the ICO.

As an example, should we receive a large influx of FOIA complaint cases, as we are bound by the GiA, the ICO cannot suddenly employ more staff to handle them.

We can currently advise that the ICO currently employs 72 individuals in our FOI and Transparency Team and another 25 individuals in our FOIA and Prosecutions Legal Services Team. Our total staff number is 1,093.

We also feel it important to advise that other teams are involved in the oversight, guidance and enforcement of the FOIA. For example:

- Our Business Advice Services Team provides guidance to public authorities about the FOIA.
- Our Public Advice and Data Protection Team will provide guidance about the FOIA to members of the public.
- Our Criminal Investigations Team may conduct a criminal investigation into a section 77 breach of the FOIA.

We have not considered these teams to be in the scope of your request as they do not solely work on the FOIA. It should also be noted that the above are examples and are not an extensive list of every team that completes some form of work into the FOIA.

We have provided you the above information in the interests of transparency around how the ICO has other teams that handle FOIA related matters.

This concludes our response.

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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