

3 April 2025

IC-370423-Z8J5

Request

On 27 March 2025 you asked for "a snapshot as at 5 April (or another easily retrievable date) for each year 2015 to current day/2025 - how many agencies were registered with the Information Commissioner as data controllers, that listed "Private Investigation" as a Purpose?"

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

Response

We hold information that falls within scope of your request and the figures have been provided by financial year below.

2022/23 – 1412

2023/24 – 1351

Current - 1336

Please note that this is based on data controllers who are recorded under the subsector 'Private Investigator'. We record snapshots by financial year, but cannot confirm figures for the full date range requested because we no longer hold this information in entirety. This is because we do not retain information about data controllers whose accounts have been inactive for more than two years. You can find out more about retention periods for the different types of information we hold by viewing our [Retention and Disposal Policy](#). We also publish some information about data controllers who are registered with us on our [data protection fee payers register](#).

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

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ico.org.uk twitter.com/iconews

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