

3 March 2025

IC-361628-Y2K1

Request

- "1. How many assessment notices have the ICO issued to private companies in the UK for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?
2. How many assessment notices have the ICO issued to public authorities, for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?
3. How many warnings have the ICO issued to private companies in the UK for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?
4. How many warnings have the ICO issued to public authorities, for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?
5. How many private companies in the UK have received written reprimands from the ICO for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?
6. How many public authorities have received written reprimands from the ICO for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?
7. How many enforcement notices have the ICO issued to private companies in the UK for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?
8. How many enforcement notices have the ICO issued to public authorities, for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?
9. How many penalty notices (administrative fines) have the ICO issued to private companies in the UK for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?

10. How many penalty notices (administrative fines) have the ICO issued to public authorities, for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?

11. How many private companies in the UK have been issued with the maximum fine of £500,000 for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?

12. How many public authorities have been issued with the maximum fine of £500,000 for a breach of data protection law or PECR, since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?

13. How many fines of £17.5 million or 4% of the organisation's annual worldwide turnover, whichever is higher, have been issued since 1984, and what proportion of all complaints made to the ICO, do they constitute?"

We received your request on 6 February 2025.

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

Our response

We hold information that falls under the scope of your request. However, locating the information would exceed the cost limit set out by section 12 of the FOIA.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 states that the 'appropriate limit' for the ICO is £450. We have determined that £450 would equate to 18 hours work.

The scope of your request is very broad. You have asked for information spanning 41 years, over a number of different pieces of legislation.

We do not hold a central record of all the enforcement action taken since 1984. This means that in order to locate the requested information we would need to manually search through annual reports, file management systems, and older legacy systems.

Much of the older information is unlikely to be held because it will have been transferred to the National Archives in line with our obligations under the Public Records Act 1958.

To take one part of your request as an example, a search of our main file management system for 'assessment notice' returns over 47,000 results.

The work required to locate this information clearly exceeds the 18 hours which would accrue a charge of £450 or more, triggering the provisions of section 12 of the FOIA.

Advice and assistance

In order to bring a new request within the cost limit you would need to reduce the scope, for example by narrowing the timeframe. However, we would advise that you look for information already in the public domain in the first instance.

Some of the more recent information you have requested can be found in the [action we've taken](#) page of our website, as well as our [annual reports](#).

Older information from our website can be found via the [UK Government Web Archive](#).

Under the Public Records Act 1958 we are required to transfer information of significant historical value to the National Archives (TNA), and to destroy information which is not of significant historical value unless there is a business need for us to keep it. You can consult the archives in Kew yourself. The catalogue is available here - [Records created or inherited by the Information Commissioner and predecessors | The National Archives](#).

You are welcome to submit a new request for anything you are unable to find using the above methods, however we do advise that you focus on fewer areas of enforcement action, or a narrower timescale.

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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