

Access to Information

2013–14 Report

Background

This report is based on the actual information on RTRACK for the year 2013-14. We only track complex requests, which are defined as:

1. requests which fall outside our normal course of business;
2. requests for information where we might refuse eg sensitive, confidential information or a repeat request;
3. requests for information related to the policy making process;
4. requests on which it may be necessary to consult with others either within Natural England or outside;
5. requests for large amounts of information or information which may be difficult to locate;
6. requests which seem unclear or too general to deal with, and where we will need to seek clarification from the applicant;
7. requests for information where a search is made, but none is found.

Requests and Applicants	
No of requests for information logged on RTRACK	468
% identified as falling under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004	97.6%
% identified as falling under the Freedom of Information Act 2000	2.4%
% from private citizens.	66.5%
% from businesses	21.2%
% from charities or lobby groups	4.7%
% from other public bodies	3.6%
% that were from media or politicians	2.3%
% that were from Academics	1.7%
Timeliness	
% completed within the legal deadlines	97.9%
% completed within the 20 working day legal deadline	90%
% completed within the extended deadline of 40 working days	7.9%
% completed beyond the legal deadlines	2.1%
% completed beyond the 20 working day deadline	1.9%
% completed beyond the extended deadline	0.2%
% with an extended deadline due to the complexity of the request or the need to consider the public interest	8.1%
% timeliness for responding to requests:	
0–5 working days	20.9%
6–10 working days	16%
11–15 working days	18.8%
16–20 working days	34.2%
>20 working days (inc extended)	10.1%
Provision of Information	
% which were granted in full	43.2%
% where all information was provided	28.4%
% where only part of the information was provided	50.4%
% which were refused in full	6.4%
% which have been transferred to The National Archives	0%

% which have been transferred to another public body	0.4%
% we've been unable to complete as we do not hold the information	11.1%
% that were withdrawn	0.9%
% where we received further information which generated a new request	0.4%
% we've been unable to complete due to no further information being provided by the applicant for us to complete the request	1.1%
Information Requested	
% related to species including protected species	29.4%
% related to protected sites (SSSIs, SACs or NNRs)	16.9%
% related to the badger control policy	16%
% related to the planning process	16%
% related to Agri-environment schemes or other grant schemes	15.5%
% related to corporate services	3.2%
% related to marine and coastal access	1.7%
% related to rights of way or CRoW open access	1.1%
% related to Weeds Act	0.2%
Internal Reviews	
Requests where the applicant has requested an internal review	33
Complaint upheld	3
Original Decision upheld	22
Original Decision upheld in part	8
Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	
Requests referred to the ICO	7
Complaints upheld	3
Complaints dismissed	1
Complaints closed informally	3
Complaints to the First-Tier Tribunal (Information Rights)	
Requests referred to the FTT	1
Initiated by requester	1
Complaint upheld	1