

Access to Information

2014–15 Report

Background

This report is based on the actual information on RTRACK for the year 2014-15. 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	451
% identified as falling under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004	95.6%
% identified as falling under the Freedom of Information Act 2000	4.4%
% from private citizens.	64.5%
% from businesses	20.2%
% from charities or lobby groups	8.2%
% from other public bodies	3.5%
% that were from media or politicians	2.3%
% that were from Academics	1.3%
Timeliness	
% completed within the legal deadlines	97.1%
% completed within the 20 working day legal deadline	87.6%
% completed within the extended deadline of 40 working days	9.5%
% completed beyond the legal deadlines	2.9%
% completed beyond the 20 working day deadline	1.6%
% completed beyond the extended deadline	1.3%
% with an extended deadline due to the complexity of the request or the need to consider the public interest	10.9%
% timeliness for responding to requests:	
0–5 working days	16.4%
6–10 working days	16.6%
11–15 working days	14.4%
16–20 working days	40.2%
>20 working days (inc extended)	12.4%
Provision of Information	
% requests which were granted in full	44.6%
% requests where all information was provided	31.9%
% requests where only part of the information was provided	52.5%
% requests which were refused in full	2.9%
% requests which have been transferred to The National Archives	0%

% which have been transferred to another public body	0.2%
% we've been unable to complete as we do not hold the information	9.8%
% that were withdrawn	1.6%
% where we received further information which generated a new request	0.7%
% we've been unable to complete due to no further information being provided by the applicant for us to complete the request	0
Information Requested	
% related to species including protected species	17.1%
% related to protected sites (SSSIs, SACs or NNRs)	10.9%
% related to the badger control policy	17.3%
% related to the planning process	28.8%
% related to Agri-environment schemes or other grant schemes	12.4%
% related to corporate services	5.3%
% related to marine and coastal access	2.9%
% related to rights of way or CRoW open access	2%
% related to Environmental Impact Regulations (Agriculture)	1.8%
% other	1.5%
Internal Reviews	
Requests where the applicant has requested an internal review	15
Complaint upheld	1
Original Decision upheld	9
Original Decision upheld in part	5
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	5
Initiated by Natural England	5
Complaint upheld	2
Complaints dismissed	2
Complaints withdrawn	1