

Access to Information

2015–16 Report

Background

This report is based on the actual information on RTRACK for the year 2015-16. 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	455
% identified as falling under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004	96.3%
% identified as falling under the Freedom of Information Act 2000	3.7%
% from private citizens	56.7%
% from businesses	27.7%
% from charities or lobby groups	8.1%
% that were from Academics	3.1%
% that were from media or politicians	2.9%
% from other public bodies	1.5%
Timeliness	
% completed within the legal deadlines	94.9%
% completed within the 20 working day legal deadline	85.1%
% completed within the extended deadline of 40 working days	9.9%
% completed beyond the legal deadlines	5.1%
% completed beyond the 20 working day deadline	3.8%
% 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	11.2%
% timeliness for responding to requests:	
0–5 working days	13.5%
6–10 working days	12.2%
11–15 working days	15.4%
16–20 working days	44%
>20 working days (inc extended)	14.9%
Provision of Information	
% requests which were granted in full	45.1
% requests where all information was provided	36
% requests where only part of the information was provided	51.4
% requests which were refused in full	16
% requests which have been transferred to The National Archives	0

% which have been transferred to another public body	0
% we've been unable to complete as we do not hold the information	7.5
% that were withdrawn	0.9
% where we received further information which generated a new request	0
% 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 the planning process	33.6%
% related to species including protected species	17.6%
% related to protected sites (SSSIs, SACs or NNRs)	17.6%
% related to the badger control policy	10.6%
% related to Agri-environment schemes or other grant schemes	10.6%
% related to corporate services	5.7%
% related to Environmental Impact Regulations (Agriculture)	1.8%
% related to marine and coastal access	1.5%
% related to rights of way or CRoW open access	0.4%
% other	0.6%
Internal Reviews	
Requests where the applicant has requested an internal review	11
Complaint upheld	0
Original Decision upheld	8
Original Decision upheld in part	3
Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)	
Requests referred to the ICO	4
Complaints withdrawn	1
Complaints dismissed	2
Complaints closed informally	1
Complaints to the First-Tier Tribunal (Information Rights)	
Requests referred to the FTT	0