

Access to Information

2016–17 Performance Report

Background

This report is based on the actual information on RTRACK for the year 2016-17. 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		Change 2015-16
No of requests for information logged on RTRACK	457	+2
% identified as falling under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004	96.8%	+0.5%
% identified as falling under the Freedom of Information Act 2000	3.2%	-0.5%
% from private citizens	59.1%	+2.4%
% from businesses	24.3%	-3.4%
% from charities or lobby groups	10.5%	+2.4%
% that were from Academics	2.0%	-1.1%
% that were from media or politicians	0.4%	-2.5%
% from other public bodies	3.7%	+2.2%
Timeliness		
% completed within the legal deadlines	94.5%	-0.4%
% completed within the 20 working day legal deadline	88.8%	+3.7%
% completed within the extended deadline of 40 working days	5.7%	-4.2%
% completed beyond the legal deadlines	4.9%	-0.4%
% completed beyond the 20 working day deadline	3.8%	+0.4%
% completed beyond the extended deadline	1.1%	-0.2%
% with an extended deadline due to the complexity of the request or the need to consider the public interest	6.8%	-4.4%
% timeliness for responding to requests:		
0–5 working days	12.3%	-1.2%
6–10 working days	15.3%	+3.1%
11–15 working days	16.4%	+1.0%
16–20 working days	44.9%	+0.9%
>20 working days (inc extended)	11.1%	-3.8%
Provision of Information		
% requests which were granted in full	43.5%	-1.6%
% requests where all information was provided	33.0%	-3.0%
% requests where only part of the information was provided	50.5%	+0.9%
% requests which were refused in full	5.9%	-10.1%

% requests which have been transferred to The National Archives	0%	0%
% which have been transferred to another public body	0%	0%
% we've been unable to complete as we do not hold the information	9.0%	+1.5%
% that were withdrawn	1.3%	+0.4%
% where we received further information which generated a new request	0.2%	0.2%
% we've been unable to complete due to no further information being provided by the applicant for us to complete the request	0.4%	-0.7%
Information Requested		
% related to the Planning process	22.2%	-11.4%
% related to Species including protected species	32.1%	+14.5%
% related to Protected sites (SSSIs, SACs or NNRS)	13.4%	-4.2%
% related to the Badger Control Policy	6.4%	-4.2%
% related to Agri-environment schemes or other grant schemes	11.8%	+1.2%
% related to Corporate Services	7.7%	+2.0%
% related to Environmental Impact Regulations (Agriculture)	0.2%	-1.6%
% related to Marine and coastal access	3.1%	+1.6%
% related to Rights of way or CRoW open access	1.8%	+1.4%
% related to Camping and Caravanning	0.9%	+0.6%
% related to the Weeds Act	0.4%	+0.1%
Internal Reviews		
Requests where the applicant has requested an internal review	19	+8
Complaint upheld	1	+1
Original Decision upheld	14	+6
Original Decision upheld in part	1	-2
Complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)		
Requests referred to the ICO	8	+4
Complaints withdrawn	1	0
Complaints closed (Decision Notice in our favour/no action to take)	5	+3
Complaints closed informally	1	0
Complaints open	1	0
Complaints to the First-Tier Tribunal (Information Rights)		
Requests referred to the FTT	0	0