



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

020 7930 4433

www.number10.gov.uk

8 September 2009

Dear Dr Wright

Thank you for your email of 22 June. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

You have requested the number of accepted petitions that the Prime Minister's Office has received in the last 10 years, broken down by the delivery format (online, postal etc) and the number of people who have signed each of the petitions.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The Prime Minister's Office holds the following information which is relevant to your request.

Information regarding the number of online petitions hosted on the Number 10 website is exempt under section 21 of the Act as it is freely available online at the following address

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/list/open?sort=deadline>. Each e-petition lists the number of signatories, and the total number within each petition category (open/closed/rejected) is listed under each sub heading. However, as of the time of writing there were 4,646 live petitions, 23,932 closed petitions and a total of 10,752,140 signatures. The e-petition system went live in November 2006 therefore no data is held relating to e-petitions prior to this date.

In relation to paper petitions – we are able to provide you with the number of petitions received for each of the last ten years along with an approximate total of signatures for each year. However, we are unable to provide the number of signatures for each petition because of the manner in which the information had been recorded and we estimate

that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit of £600.00. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for central Government it is set at £600.00. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending three and a half working days in locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Year	Number of paper petitions received	Approximate number of signatures
1999	193	1,310,000
2000	298	14,992,500
2001	251	1,258,300
2002	192	1,087,400
2003	229	14,116,800
2004	131	978,400
2005	159	2,796,500
2006	199	5,549,000
2007	188	1,762,900
2008	495	3,596,100
Jan-Aug 2009	344	2,432,400

Yours sincerely

N S Howard

NICHOLAS HOWARD

Dr Scott Wright



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LONDON SW1A 2AA

If you are unhappy with the level of service you have received from this office in relation to any aspect of your request, you may ask for an internal review.

You should contact:

Sue Gray
Director
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AS

Email: foiteam@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk

You should note that the Cabinet Office will not normally accept an application for internal review if it is received more than two months after the date that the reply was issued.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF