



HM Revenue
& Customs

M. Martin

By email: request-564783-4f764fa2@whatdotheyknow.com

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Our ref: FOI2019/00941

Dear M. Martin

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Thank you for your request, which was received on 17 April, for the following information:

"I accept your amended questions and await your response to those amended questions. Please can you provide them.

I can appreciate the logic in most of your responses re time issues however your response re point 13 is a little bizarre given that HMRC are not averse to publicising their numerous fantastic successes and your response would merely highlight HMRCs overall success. In fact in a historical article in 2012 HMRC declared they had detected and foiled several hundred fraudulent Gift Aid Claims from Charities totalling more than £10m per annum in each of the last two years 2011 and 2012 which was confirmed by the head of HMRC's Charities technical team, readily available through search engines. It is fair to say that HMRC refused to publish the details of detections and prosecutions requested, saying that to do so would assist the fraudsters' efforts to cheat the government out of tax receipts. I will accept your decision yet I do personally feel the public interest and confidence in HMRC would be better served in continuing to show your robustness in safeguarding public money from fraudsters."

I can confirm that HMRC does hold information within the scope of your request. Please note that in order to answer your questions we have extracted the data from the Charity database using a data query tool. We are confident that the results are accurate.

1. There were 172,024 Charities registered with HMRC as of 10 May 2019.
2. The average timescale for a Gift Aid payment is between 5 and 6 working days.
3. HM Revenue & Customs received 413,674 Gift Aid Claims in 2018 (calendar year).
4. 98.8% of Gift Aid applications are made online, the remaining 1.2% of applications are submitted on paper using Form ChR1.

5. Number of successful Gift Aid Claims, per calendar year.

2016	72,409
2017	72,853
2018	74,049

6. The 10 largest individual Gift Aid Claims in the 2018 calendar year.

£7,834,317.50
£6,830,000.00
£5,000,000.00
£4,500,000.00
£4,225,000.00
£3,750,000.00
£3,657,061.62
£3,457,633.02
£3,412,736.33
£3,250,000.00

7. The 10 largest Gift Aid Claims for non-UK Charities in the 2018 calendar year.

£ 402,935.65
£ 311,965.64
£ 173,176.78
£ 165,065.31
£ 163,965.19
£ 149,723.79
£ 149,334.53
£ 124,083.68
£ 95,710.61
£ 88,964.78

If you are not satisfied with this reply you may request a review within two months by emailing foi.review@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk, or by writing to the address at the top right-hand side of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review you can [complain to the Information Commissioner's Office](#)

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Team