



HM Revenue
& Customs

Iain Overton

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Date 5 January 2017
Our ref FOI2016/00413

Dear Mr Overton

Freedom of Information request: FOI performance

Thank you for your request, which was received on 4 December 2016, for the following information:

"Please can you tell me for two 5 month periods (23 Jan 2015 - 22 June 2016 and 23 June 2016 - 22 Nov 2016):

- 1. How many Freedom of Information requests your department received.*
- 2. How many of these FOI requests were responded to with a formed answer (this does not include confirmation of receipt answers).*
- 3. How many of these answered FOI responses gave details as requested.*
- 4. How many of these answered FOI responses were refused (for whatever reason - cost, outside the scope of FOI etc. etc.)*

If, give the time constraints of FOI you still have time left on the clock, so to speak, can I also ask if you have received any internal messaging relating to anything that might be considered a 'go slow' approach to FOIs, or any other memos that would suggest that there has been orders not to answer questions relating to Brexit issues.."

Detailed information on the performance of Departments and other public bodies in dealing with FOI requests is published by the Cabinet Office each quarter, and annually. That information covers the fields that you seek in your questions 1-4. The information up to September 2016 is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/government-foi-statistics#2016>.

Information covering the next quarter (1 October to 31 December 2016) will be published, as per the normal timetable, in April 2017. Information relating to this time will thus be available via that future publication.

As there is an established intention to publish the information it is *currently* exempt from disclosure (under Section 22(1) FOI 2000). An explanation for how this exemption operates is available from the Information Commissioner, on their website (<https://ico.org.uk/media/1172/information-intended-for-future-publication-and-research-information-sections-22-and-22a-foi.pdf>).

Director Central Policy: Marie Claire Uhart

In considering your request I accept that it is reasonable and in the public interest that HMRC reports information about its FOI performance measures, and take account of the fact that that interest will be met by the existing planned publication.

The public interest in permitting public authorities to publish in a manner and form and at a time of their own choosing is important. It is a part of the effective conduct of public affairs that the general publication of information is a conveniently planned and managed activity within the reasonable control of public authorities.

In answer to your final question I can confirm that we do not hold any information relating to a 'go slow approach' on FOIs relating to Brexit. HMRC applies the terms of the FOI Act to all requests that we receive, regardless of who the applicant is or the subject of the request they are making. HMRC aims to answer all questions within the statutory deadline.

If you are not satisfied with this reply you may request a review within 2 months by writing to HMRC FOI Team FOI Team, Room 1C/23, 100 Parliament Street London SW1A 2BQ or email (foi.review@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of our review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Contact details for the Information Commissioner can be found on their website, www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

H Abuzaid
HMRC Freedom of Information Team

To find out what you can expect from us and what we expect from you go to **www.gov.uk/hmrc/your-charter** and have a look at 'Your Charter'.