



Home Office

Shared Services
Directorate
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

020 7035 4848
(switchboard)

www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Mr Wayne Pearsall
[request-174670-
ac6cb944@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-174670-ac6cb944@whatdotheyknow.com)

25 September 2013

Dear Mr Pearsall

Freedom of Information request: Case 28969

Thank you for your e-mail of 13 September 2013, in which you ask for a list of the 100 most accessed internet websites accessed (from all/any internet capable devices) from within the Home Offices computer systems over the last 12 months. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Under section 12 of the Act, the Home Office is not obliged to comply with an information request where to do so would exceed the cost limit.

We hold the information which you have requested but we have estimated that the cost of meeting your request would exceed the cost limit of £600 specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. We are therefore unable to comply with it. It is not possible to list the top 100 most accessed internet websites within the cost limit as the Department currently does not have the technology deployed to extract log information in usable form. To attempt to do so would exceed the cost limit prescribed under section 12.

The £600 limit is based on work being carried out at a rate of £25 per hour, which equates to 24 hours of work per request. The cost of locating, retrieving and extracting information and preparing the response can be included in the costs for these purposes. The costs do not include considering whether any information is exempt from disclosure, overheads such as heating or lighting, or items such as photocopying or postage.

If you refine your request, so that it is more likely to fall under the cost limit, we will consider it again. However, given the nature of the work which would be required to retrieve the requested information, we do not consider that it would be possible to refine the request to bring it within the cost limit.

Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds £600.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **28969**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Access Team
Home Office
Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours Sincerely

M Riddle
Information Access Team

Switchboard 020 7035 4848
E-mail info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

Freedom of Information request from Wayne Pearsall (reference 28969)

Information requested

Mr Tom Baxter submitted the FOI Request located here:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/top_100_non_governmental_website_3

Has your position on this matter changed. Are you now in a position to release the information requested?

I note that there has been a lot of press releases about access to pornography sites in the news of late, so I do assume that the information may now be accessible.

If it is, can you please provide the information requested by Mr Baxter. However, this is not limiting the request to simply .co.uk and .com sites but any non-governmental website.

Can you please provide information over the last full 12 month period (prior to today). If however, your logs have been modified during this timeframe, please provide information as far back as possible.

HOWEVER:

If your position is that you are unable to provide the information required due to costs, as before, can you please provide a sample log, of the information requested. I understand that you will need to redact some personal information. I would appreciate if you redact the information in a manner that would not interfere with the integrity of the logs.

*IE: if redacting 'woodgatea' being a username, replace it with the word 'username' etc. With the large amount of traffic that the home office network obviously has passing through, Please provide me with a record of approximately 200 'transactions' that have been logged.

Date

25/9/2013