

Dear Mr Owens (By email)

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your request, dated 20 June 2014, for information under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2000, as follows:

1. *How many oil rigs are there in the North Sea?*
2. *How many oil rigs are owned by the Scottish Government?*
3. *How many oil rigs are owned by the UK Government?*
4. *How many oil rigs are owned by an outside company?*
5. *How much profit has been made from oil rigs in the North Sea in the last 5 years? (that is drilling for oil)*
6. *Where does the profit from oil drilling go?*

The FOI Act is concerned with information held by the public authority concerned. The answers to your questions are not generally held by the Scotland Office, but are available online. I am therefore replying by providing you with sources for the information you require and some background information

Please see table below showing the number of Oil and Gas installations in the UK Continental Shelf published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in May 2014.

Table of Current UKCS Installations

Summary	Installations	Manned	Unmanned
Number of Oil Platforms	91	78	13
Number of Oil Floating Installations	20	20	0
Total Number of Oil Installations	111	98	13
Total Number of Gas Platforms	187	54	133
Total Number of Oil and Gas Installations	298	152	146
Total Number of Operational Installations	282	149	133

All of the platforms are privately owned by a range of UK and international companies. A full list of the platforms and their operators can be found at [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../Installations May 2014.xls](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/.../Installations_May_2014.xls)

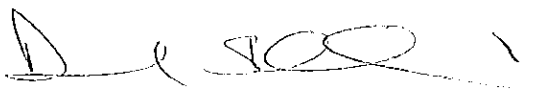
In terms of revenues, the companies involved are taxed on their profits, that tax is paid into the Exchequer and used to fund public expenditure across the UK. The remaining profit is a matter for the companies. The table shown at the link below shows historic receipts from all taxes levied on exploration and production activities of UK oil and gas from the UK and UK continental shelf. The table covers all years from 1968-69 to the last year for which we have total receipts figures, which is currently 2013-14.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/323371/140620_UK_oil_and_gas_tables_for_publication_in_June_2014.pdf.

- Revenues from UK oil and gas production increased from £7.4 billion in 2007-08 to £12.4 billion in 2008-09, an increase of around 67%, mainly as a result of record high oil prices for 2008 pushing up revenues to the highest ever level.
- Revenues fell in 2009-10 to £5.9 billion, a reduction of around 50% from the previous year, due to falling oil prices, declining oil and gas production and increased capital expenditure for 2009.
- Although expenditure increased and production continued to decline for 2010, the increase in oil prices led to a significant rise in 2010-11 revenues by over 40% to £8.3 billion.
- This upward trend continued in 2011-12 with total revenues increasing to £10.9 billion, due to higher prices and an increase in the supplementary charge from 20% to 32% from 24th March 2011.
- In 2012-13 revenues dropped by around 45% to £6.1 billion and then fell again in 2013-14 by around 25% to £4.7 billion as a result of lower production and higher expenditure.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,



David Skilling
Scotland Office
1 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 7HW

24 July 2014