

Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: The number of appeals received during October 2005 following the issue of a late filing penalty

Date Released: 8 May 2006

Summary of request: How many companies claim to have sent in accounts during October 2005 which Companies House says it never had?

Information released:

I am unable to tell you the numbers of companies that claim to have sent in accounts during the period in question, which Companies House has said we have not received as we do not hold information in that format. As an organisation we have numerous areas that would deal with complaints from customers but we do not collect information regarding complaints that specifically refer to possible lost documents. The nearest statistical information that is available would be in regard to submission of accounts and the Late Filing Penalty regime. We do hold statistics on the number of companies that appeal against a penalty but we do not break this down by type of appeal. The figure would therefore include reasons such as accounts lost in the post, posted in time but delayed in the post, administrative error at Companies House, non compliance due too circumstances beyond the control of the company, internal problems/disputes within the company or problems with accountants/solicitors. I can tell you however that during October 2005 we received 1221 appeals following the issue of Late Filing Penalties.