

## **Information Released under Freedom of Information Act**

**Subject:** Late filing penalty statistics from March 2003 to March 2007 and extensions of time for filing accounts granted from March 2004 to March 2007

**Date Released:** 8 March 2007

### **Summary of request:**

Details of all the cases, in the last 4 years, where accounts have been filed outside the statutory time limit. The numbers for each year where, the fine was imposed, imposed but cancelled, reduced and cancelled or reduced by a court.

Details of all the cases, in the last 3 years, where an extension of time for submitting accounts has been granted. The numbers for each year for public limited companies, companies which are not limited companies and any company which is part of or an associate of the Rover Group

### **Information released:**

I should inform you that there is a document published annually by the Department of Trade and Industry which contains a great deal of statistical information about the work undertaken by Companies House. This document is called 'Companies In' and is available to you free of charge on our website at [www.companieshouse.gov.uk](http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk). It can be found in 'about us> statistics and survey> DTI reports. There are currently 4 copies on the site which go back to 2003 and which hopefully will provide you with some of the statistics you have requested.

Unfortunately I am unable to provide details of cases as requested as this would involve a great deal of paperwork and resource. You will see for example that for 2005/2006, a total of 203,111 companies filed their accounts late and subsequently received a late filing penalty. The Registrar then received 18,793 disputes, all of which would have then been put through the appeal process and eventually in 6,235 instances the Registrar used her discretion not to collect the penalty. For the same year the Registrar received 9,123 applications for extensions of time for filing accounts and 3,061 of those were approved. The work involved in retrieving the information you require would exceed the £600 limit allowed for freedom of information requests and I must therefore refuse your request under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

However, once you have had a chance to look at the information contained in 'Companies In', you may be able to refine your request and I would be more than happy to consider any future requests made. I should however, inform you that it is not Companies House policy to provide late filing penalty information about individual companies. In order to satisfy your request and to comply with the freedom of information legislation we would have to obtain third party permission

from all companies involved and I'm sure you will understand the volume of work this would entail.