

Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: Late Filing Penalty Statistics for 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Date Released: 1 August 2007

Summary of request:

The enquirer requested the statistics on the number of Late Filing Penalties raised, the number that were appealed, grounds of appeal and the result of those appeals for 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Information released:

The number of penalty fines charged by Companies House in 2005.
The number of late filing penalties raised for this period was 197,076.

The number of penalty fines charges by Companies House in 2006.
The number of late filing penalties raised for this period was 220,289.

The number of penalty fines charges by Companies House in 2007 (Jan to May).
The number of late filing penalties raised for this period was 106,404.

The number of companies that appealed against the fine (by year)
The number of appeals received for the years requested are shown below:
2005 = 17,843
2006 = 19,552
2007 (Jan to May) = 9,271

The grounds for appeal.

Unfortunately, we do not keep all the reasons for appeals in an easily accessible document, we would have to retrieve each case file and extract the information individually. Much of this information may also be of a sensitive, personal nature and as such we would not be able to disclose it to a third party without consulting the owner of the information. I hope you can appreciate that such an exercise would be far too labour intensive and would exceed the statutory financial limit allowed for freedom of information requests. You may wish to refer to the Frequently Asked Questions on the Companies House Website, where under the heading Late Filing Penalties – Appeals, a list of reasons that would not be regarded as justification for the non-collection of a penalty can be found. I hope you will find these useful.

The result of their appeal.

The number of cases where the Registrar's discretion not to collect the penalty was used for the years requested are shown below:

2005 = 6,240
2006 = 4,992
2007 (Jan to May) = 2,019