

Request

1. How many section 202 reviews were successful in the annual year 2023? Please also give the number of section 202 reviews received.
2. How many section 202 reviews were successful in the annual year 2022? Please also give the number of section 202 reviews received.
3. How many section 202 reviews were successful in the annual year 2021? Please also give the number of section 202 reviews received.
4. How many section 202 reviews were successful in the annual year 2020? Please also give the number of section 202 reviews received.
5. How many section 202 reviews were successful in the annual year 2019? Please also give the number of section 202 reviews received.

Response

We do not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) relieves a public authority from the obligation to comply with a request for information where the estimated time required to locate, review and extract the information exceeds a certain threshold set out in Regulations.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/3244) set out the rules in relation to the cost limit (otherwise called the "appropriate limit"). These Regulations are published by the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) and are viewable on their web site from this link: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2004/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

The Regulations set out the cost limit for Government departments and for other public authorities. For local government, Regulation 3 states that the cost limit is £450 and Regulation 4(4) states that the prescribed hourly rate is £25. Regulation 4(4) further provides that where the local authority estimates the time taken to gather the information would exceed this limit (which based on the prescribed hourly rate, equates to 18 officer hours), it may refuse the request under section 12 of FoIA.

I am satisfied the cost limit applies to your request and will explain why this is the case.

We don't formally record/hold information as section 202 reviews. To answer your request we would need to manually go through several thousand client records – as it would take 15 to 20 minutes to retrieve the requested information from each of these records would take far in excess of the 18 officer hours stipulated in the act.