

DoF Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) Compliance Report 2025

Background

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 provide public access to information held by public authorities. It does this in two ways:

- Public authorities must publish certain information about their activities
- Members of the public can request information from public authorities

This helps increase openness in the public sector, allows citizens to better understand the decisions of public authorities, helps make public authorities accountable for their actions and enables public debate to be better informed and more productive.

This annual report presents a summary of FOI and EIR statistics for the Department of Finance (the Department) on the following:

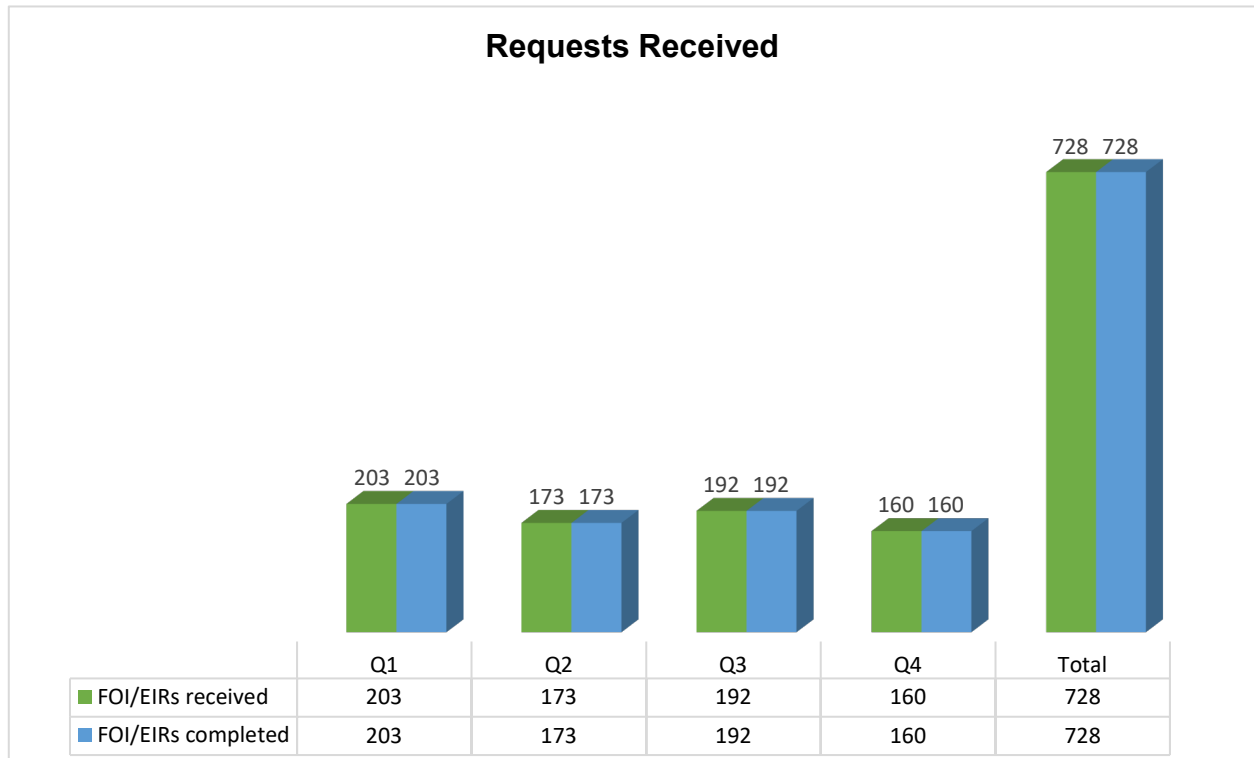
- Number of FOI and EIR requests received
- Timeliness of FOI and EIR responses
- Outcome of FOI and EIR requests
- Number of Internal Review requests received and timeliness of Internal Review responses
- Outcome of Internal Review requests
- Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Complaints received

Further information on FOI and EIR legislation is available at:

- [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)
- [Environmental Information Regulations 2004](#)

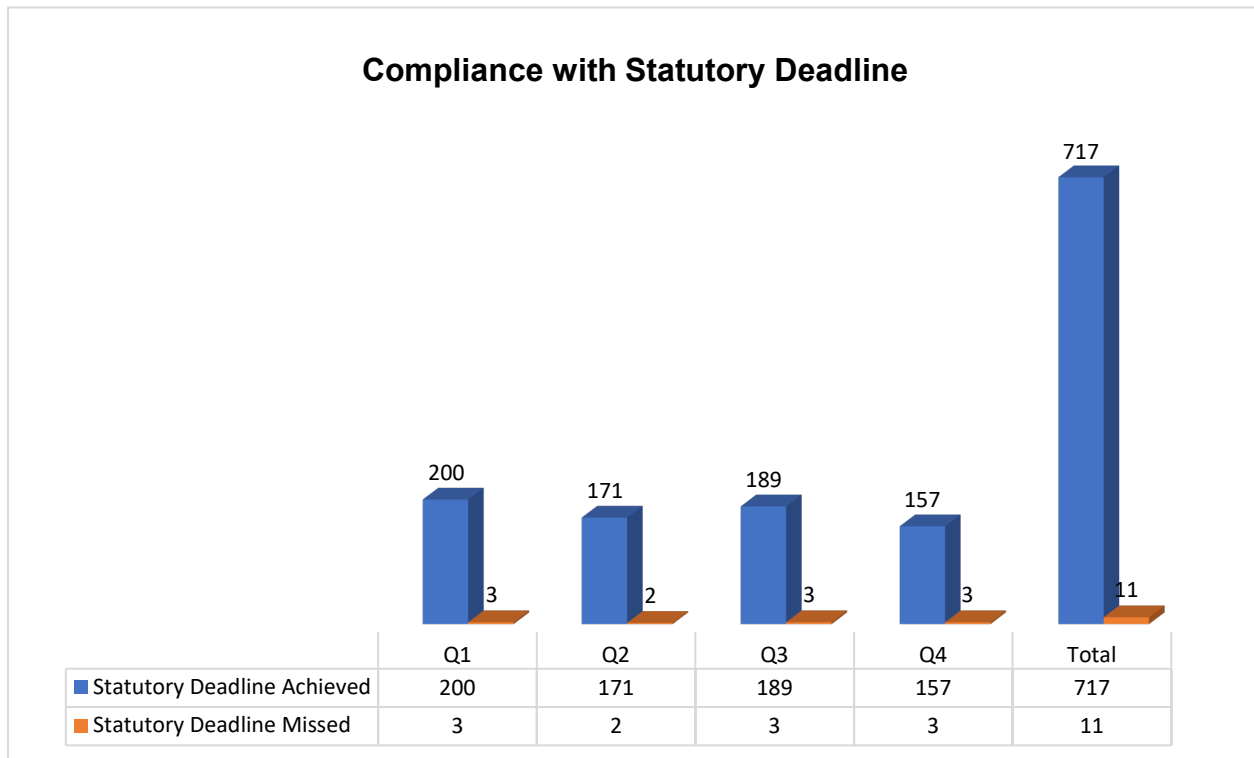
Number of FOI and EIR requests received

The Department received 728 FOI and EIR requests for information in 2025. 717 were handled under FOI and 11 under EIR.



Timeliness of FOI and EIR responses

The statutory deadline for responses is 20 working days*. 98% of requests received were responded to on time.



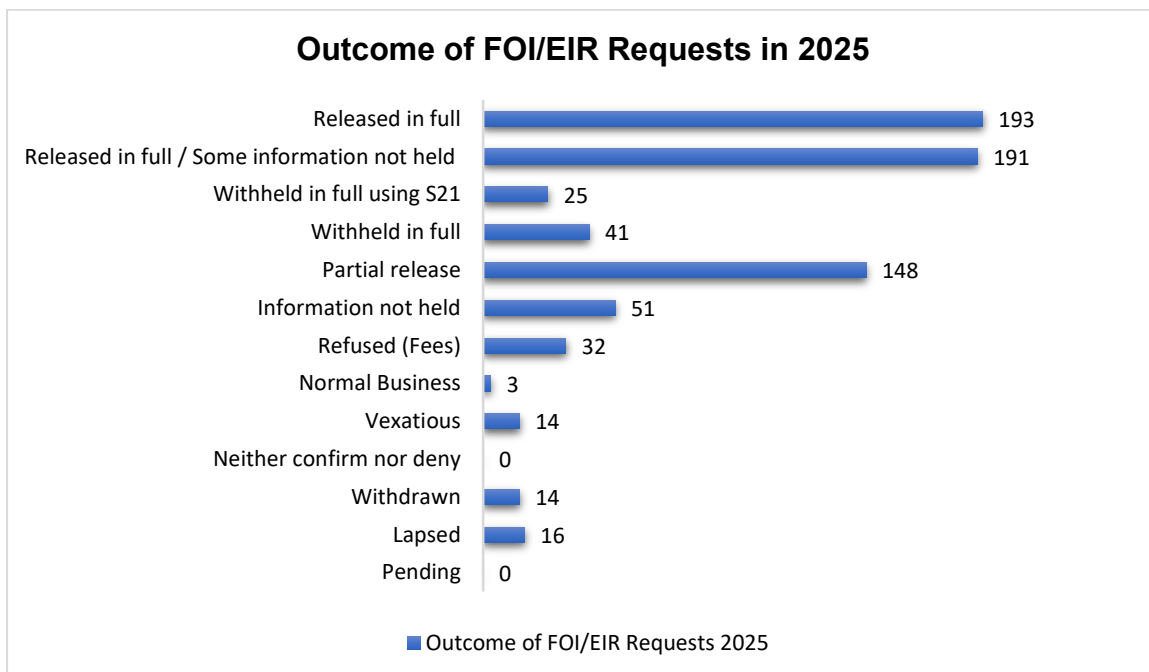
* In certain circumstances the deadline can be extended.

Outcome of FOI and EIR requests

The graphs below present statistics showing how the Department responded to requests for information in 2025.

Explanations of the outcome categories are available at Annex A.

Please note, the exemption at Section 21 of the FOI Act is used when requested information is available by other means, for example, it may already be published. As an exemption is used, such requests may fall under the category 'Withheld in full', however the requester will be directed to the information in the response.



Internal Reviews

If a department's response is challenged, the requester may seek an internal review. This review is conducted by someone independent from the original decision maker's business area, and should be completed within 20 working days, with extensions up to 40 days in exceptional cases in line with Information Commissioner guidance.

Number of Internal Review requests and timeliness of responses

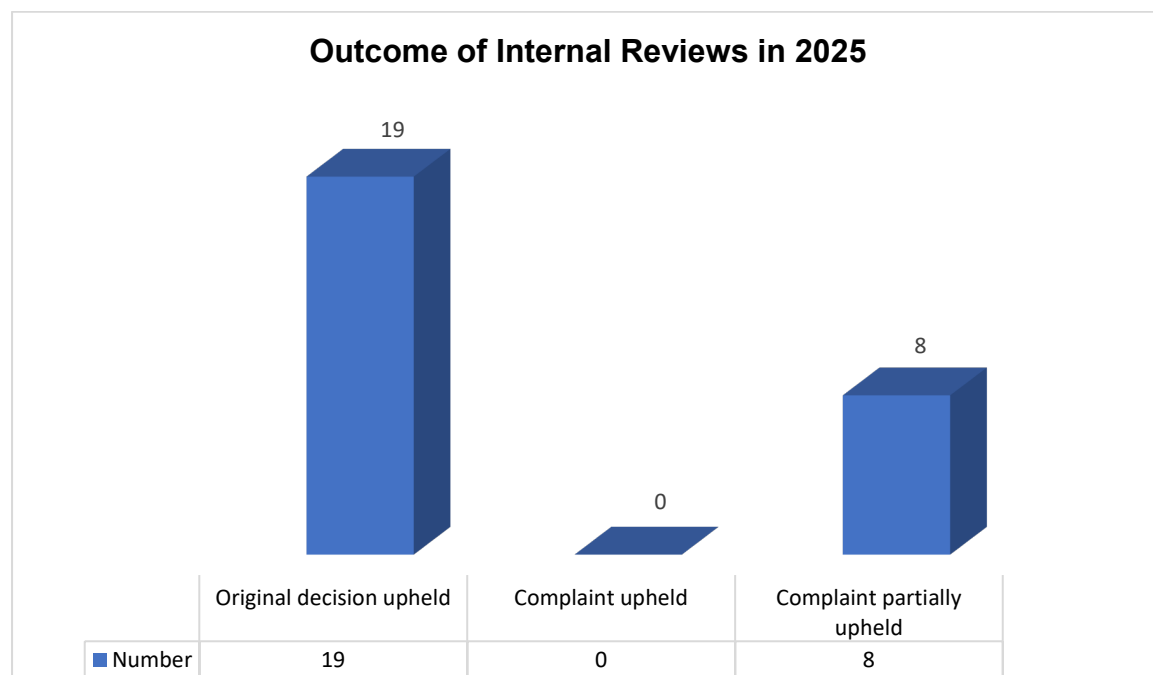
There were 27 requests for an Internal Review in 2025. 1 response was issued late.

Outcome of Internal Review request

Original decision upheld – the Department's original decision was upheld by the reviewer.

Complaint upheld – the reviewer has determined the complainant was justified and upheld the complaint. For example, information previously withheld may be released.

Complaint partially upheld – the reviewer has determined the complainant had some grounds for complaint and partially upheld the complaint



ICO Complaints

A requester can complain to the ICO about the way the Department has handled their request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), Environmental Information Regulation (EIR).

The ICO will accept a complaint on the grounds that a requester has followed up with the Department and has not received a response after 20 working days; or if the requester is still dissatisfied following an internal review by the Department.

Number of ICO Complaints received by the Department

The Department received 5 complaints from the ICO in 2025.

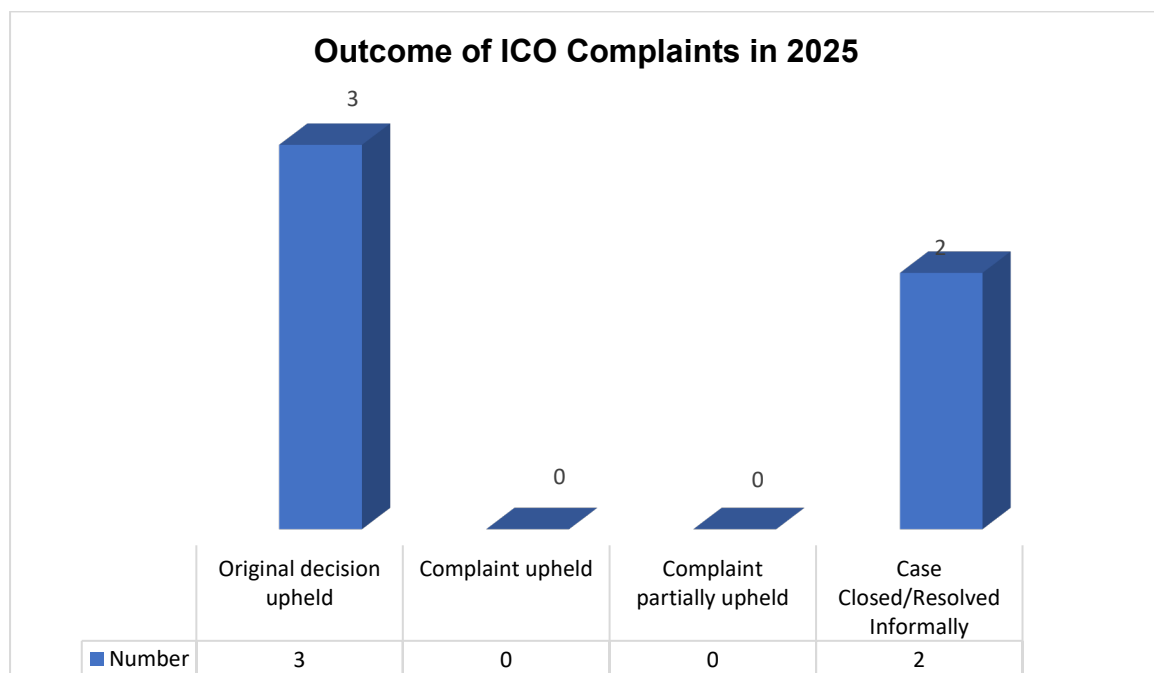
Outcome of ICO Complaints

Original decision upheld – the Department’s original decision was upheld by the ICO.

Complaint upheld – the ICO has determined the complainant was justified and upheld the complaint. For example, information previously withheld may be released.

Complaint partially upheld – the ICO has determined the complainant had some grounds for complaint and partially upheld the complaint.

Case Closed/Resolved Informally – the ICO closed the complaint through an informal resolution, without issuing a formal, legally binding Decision Notice.



Explanation of outcomes of FOI and EIR requests

Released in full – no information withheld; request fully complied with.

Released in full / Some information not held – the Department has released all the information it holds within the scope of the request.

Withheld in full using S21 – information not released as it is available by other means, for example, it may already be published. In these circumstances, the response will direct the requester to the information.

Withheld in full – information not released; completely withheld.

Partial release – the Department has released some information and applied an exemption or exception and withheld some information. Further information on exemptions and exceptions is available on the [ICO website](#).

Information not held – the Department does not hold the information requested.

Refused (fees) – the cost for complying with the request has exceeded the fees threshold. Further information on fees is available on the [ICO website](#).

Normal business – the Department holds the information requested and it has been released as general correspondence rather than under FOI or EIR.

Vexatious – the request has been deemed vexatious. A vexatious request is defined as manifestly unjustified, inappropriate or improper use of a formal procedure. Further information on vexatious requests is available on the [ICO website](#).

Neither confirm nor deny – the Department can neither confirm nor deny it holds the requested information.

Withdrawn – the requester has withdrawn their request.

Lapsed – the requester has not responded when the Department has sought clarification (within three calendar months) and the request has been closed.

Pending – the request is pending and hasn't been responded to yet.