



Department of
Finance

An Roinn

Airgeadais

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Department of Finance Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) Annual Compliance Report January – March 2026

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 compliance statistics for the Department of Finance (DoF) 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
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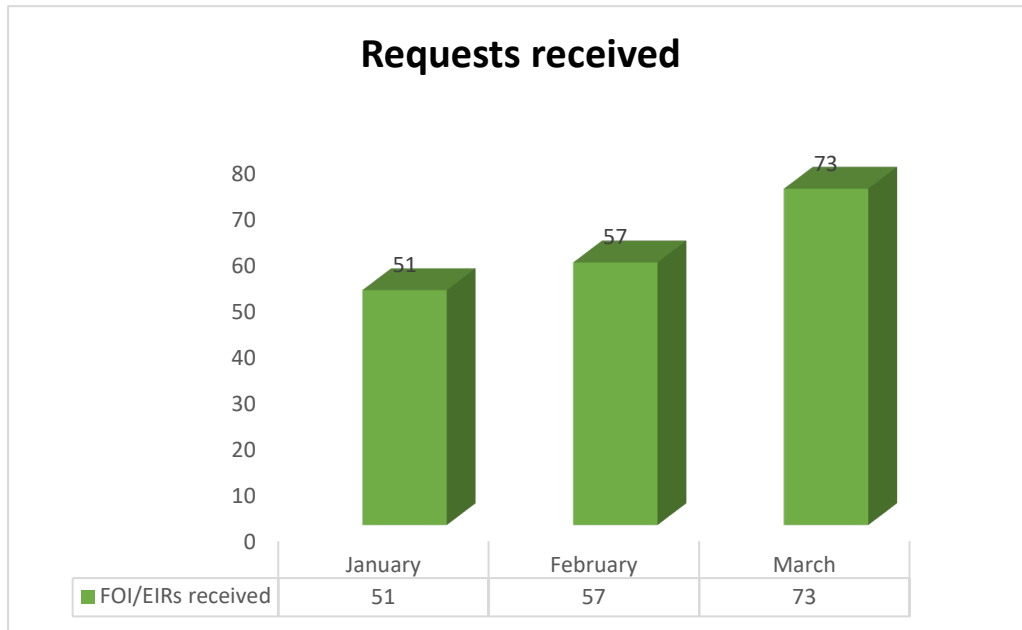
Further information on FOI and EIR legislation is available at:

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

Number of FOI and EIR requests received

The department received and completed 181 FOI and EIR requests for information between January and March 2026.

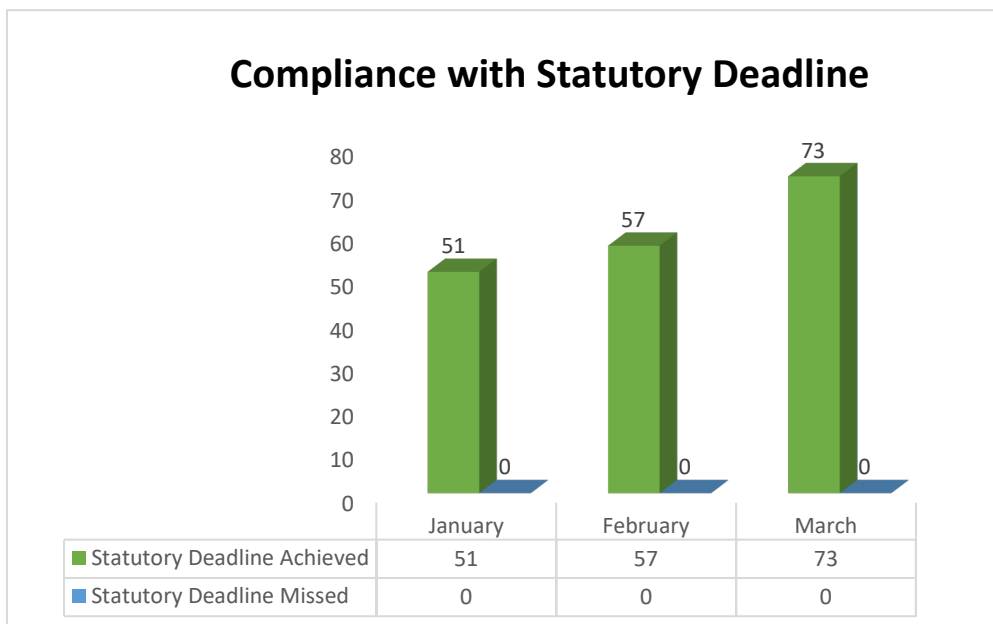
180 were handled under FOI and 1 under EIR.



Timeliness of FOI and EIR responses

The statutory deadline for responses is 20 working days*. Ninety-nine percent of requests received were responded to on time.

* In certain circumstances the deadline can be extended.

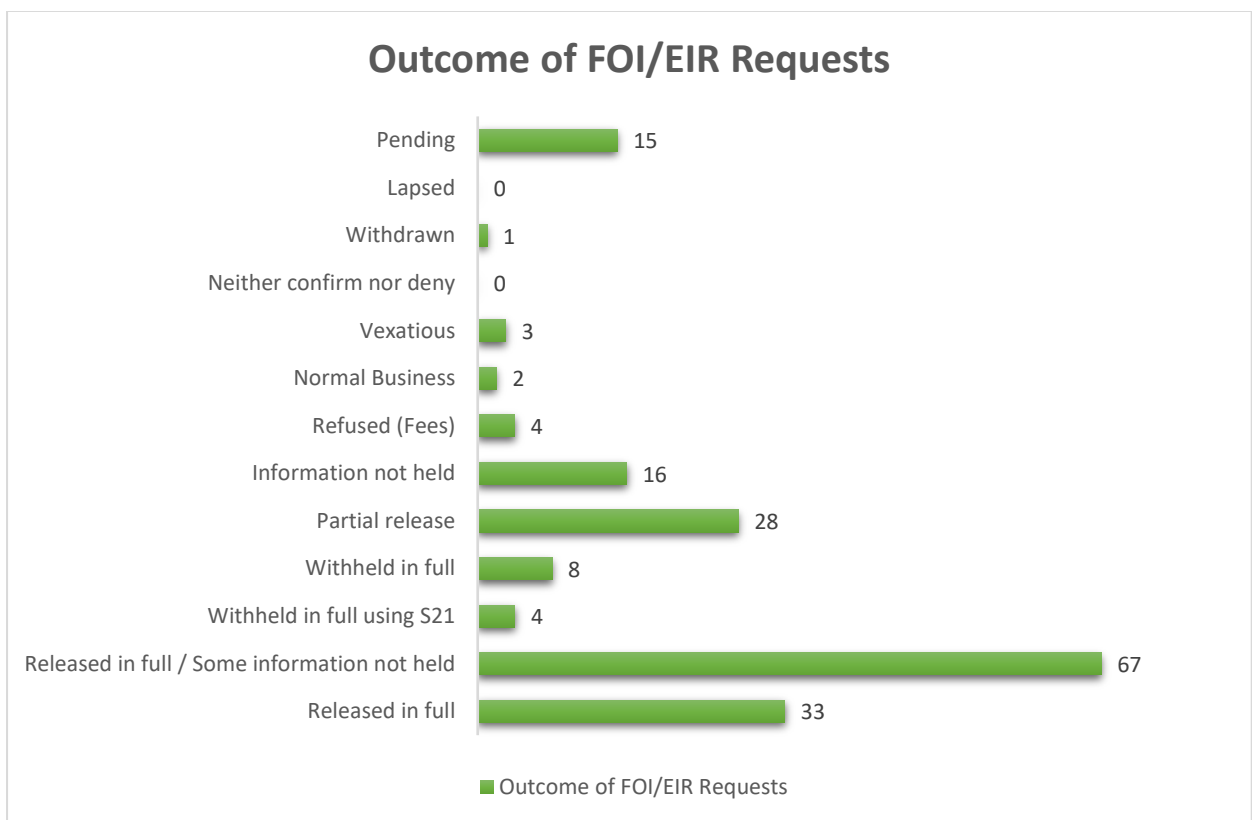


Outcome of FOI and EIR requests

The graph below shows the outcomes of how DoF responded to requests for information between January and March 2026.

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 requestor is dissatisfied with the department's response to a request for information, they can request the department carries out an Internal Review.

The Internal Review involves a fresh and thorough examination of the initial decision, by a person outside the business area of the original decision maker. The response should issue within 20 working days and may be extended up to 40 days in exceptional circumstances, as stipulated by the Information Commissioner.

Number of Internal Review requests and timeliness of responses

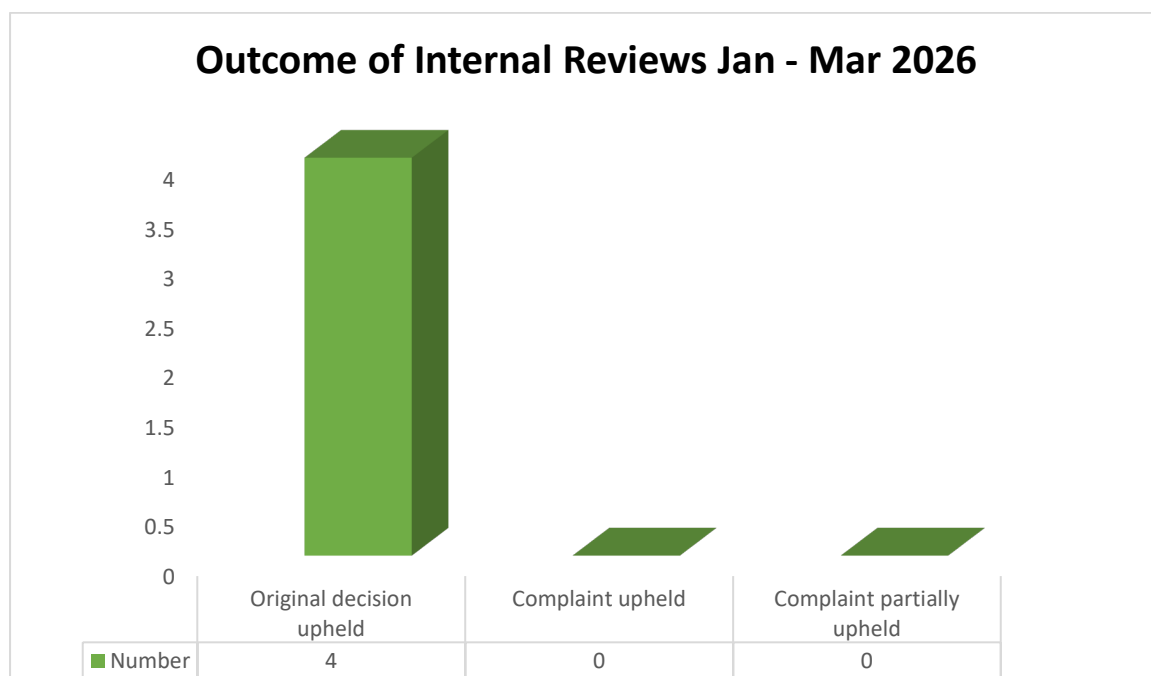
There were 4 requests for an Internal Review between January and March 2026. All responses issued on time.

Outcome of Internal Review requests

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.



Explanation of outcomes of FOI and EIR requests

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

Withheld in full – information not released; completely withheld.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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](#).

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

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](#).

Withdrawn – the requester has withdrawn their request.

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