

FOI Centre

Paper number:

**Access to public records: Breakdown of Freedom of Information requests:
October to December 2008**

This paper is for information only. No action required.

From 1 October to 31 December 2008 The National Archives received a total of 601 Freedom of Information requests asking for access to closed documents held in the archive. During this period it responded to 479 cases.

The outcome of the completed cases is as follows:

- 195 requests were granted in full
- 149 requests were refused in full
- 70 requests resulted in some information being released and some being redacted
- 65 requests were answered in some other way e.g. the request was a duplicate, it was not relevant or The National Archives awaits further information from the enquirer
- 53¹ public interest tests were completed for historical records, and passed to a panel of the Advisory Council

The breakdown of exemption use is as follows:

- 24 national security 2
- 26 defence 2
- 27 international relations: 26
- 31 law enforcement: 24
- 32 court records: 9
- 35 policy formulation: 1
- 37 communications with royals 2
- 38 health and safety: 38
- 40 personal data: 209
- 41 provided in confidence: 79
- 42 legal professional privilege 9
- 43 commercial interests: 2

¹ The actual number of Public Interest Test forms submitted to a panel may be lower or higher than this figure. This is because some requests and some Public Interest Test forms refer to more than one file.