

Email: foi@fca.org.uk

[By Email]

4 October 2018

Our Ref: FOI5874

Dear

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) for the following information:

"Please advise of the following in relation to the FCA Mutuals Public Register.

1. Total number of individual requests made for documentation

2. Number of requests set out separately for the following

a. building societies;

b. credit unions;

c. friendly societies; and

d. registered societies.

3. Total amount of fees/costs recovered from requests for documentation.

4. Amount of fees/costs recovered from requests for documentation for the following:

a. building societies;

b. credit unions;

c. friendly societies; and

d. registered societies."

On 4 August, following our request for clarification, you specified that you would like to receive *"the data for each year since 2014."*

We apologise for the delay in responding to your request and appreciate your understanding and patience.

Before considering your request, it is important to explain that requests for documentation can be submitted online through the Mutuals Public Register, or can be sent to the FCA manually. We do not retain data on the details of the online requests made through the Mutuals Public Register other than knowing a request was made.

Turning now to your request, I can confirm that we hold the information relating to questions 1 and 3, whereas we do not hold the information on questions 2 and 4, as set out below.

Question 1:

The information you are seeking is set out in table 1 and 2 below.

The figures shown in table 1 include a combination of the following:

- Completed orders for documents through the Mutuels Public Register
- Requests made for paper copies of documents
- Requests made for inspection of files at our offices

Table 2 shows the number and value of successful baskets on the Mutuels Public Register.

Please note some of the online transactions in table 2 below may have resulted from an initial request for documentation submitted manually to us. In those instances, the same request would therefore appear in both tables, first as a manual request, then as an online transaction through the Mutuels Register.

Table 1: Manual requests	
Year	Requests received
2014	1905
2015	1668
2016	1147
2017	830
2018	434
Total	5984

Table 2: Online transaction (through the Mutuels Public Register)			
Year	Successful baskets	Value of successful baskets (£)	Number of documents
2014	2610	46,704.00	3892
2015	2480	44,880.00	3740
2016	2740	48,552.00	4046
2017	3270	59,592.00	4966
2018	1995	36,816.00	3068
Total	13095	236,544.00	19712

Question 3:

The information you are seeking is contained in table 3 below. This includes all income received and allocated to Mutuels Search & Copy since 2014.

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Table 3: fees/costs recovered	
Year	Amount (£)
2014	84,005.60
2015	83,412.80
2016	69,514.43
2017	78,577.40
2018	46,919.40
Total	362,429.63

Question 2, 4:

We do not hold information on the number of requests received for each of the listed categories. This is because, as explained above, the details of the requests submitted online through the Mutuals Public Register (table 2) are not retained.

We would be able to consider a redefined request relating to the manual applications received (Table 1), as the specific details of these requests are recorded; However, the manual requests for documentation would only represent about one third of the total number of requests we receive each year, so would not provide you with the full picture.

Further, please also note that to determine the number of manual requests received for each type of society, we would need to manually review the details of each individual request. Given the large number of records held, it is likely that to complete this exercise for the period you refer to would exceed the FCA's statutory cost limit for complying with freedom of information requests, as contained within the Freedom of Information Act, and so the exemption to disclosure in section 12 of the Act is likely to apply.

We expect, however, to be able to consider within cost a redefined request for the breakdown by type of society of the manual requests received during either 2017 or 2018 so far. If you would like us to consider a redefined request for either year, please let us know in writing.

Yours sincerely

Information Disclosure Team

Your right to complain under the Act

If you are unhappy with the decision made in relation to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. If you wish to exercise this right you should contact us within three months of the date of this response.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you also have a right of appeal to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF. Telephone: 01625 545 700. Website: www.ico.org.uk