

14 December 2020

Our Ref: FOI7815

Freedom of Information: Right to know request

Thank you for your email of 16 November 2020, in which you asked for information about fines and investigations.

We are handling your email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We have answered each of your questions in turn.

1. *Can you provide the number of firms being fined, YTD 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016?*

Details on the number of firms that we have fined in 2016 can be found [here](#).

Details on the number of firms that we have fined in 2017 can be found [here](#).

Details on the number of firms that we have fined in 2018 can be found [here](#).

Details on the number of firms that we have fined in 2019 can be found [here](#).

Details on the number of firms that we have fined in 2020 can be found [here](#).

2. *Can you provide the number of firms currently being investigated for each year listed above?*

We have interpreted your request as investigations into firms that were opened in the years mentioned above that are still currently ongoing.

Years	Investigations
2016	15
2017	38
2018	64
2019	39
2020	38

3. Can you provide an explanation as to why the number of fines/investigations for this year differs greatly from previous years?

The size and number of penalties we impose always varies year to year, going both down and up, reflecting the fact that it can take a number of years to investigate and litigate a matter, to secure an enforcement outcome. Nothing should be read into annual changes in the number of enforcement outcomes as our approach to enforcement has not changed.

Your right to complain under FOIA

If you are unhappy with the decision we have made about your request, you have the right to request an internal review. To do so, please contact us within 40 days 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 by phone or on their website at:

Website: www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Information Disclosure Team