

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 000343
Date 4 August 2016

Trading Standards

Request:

The number of posts in the trading standards department (full time equivalent) broken down by year for the past 5 years...ie 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

2015 – 9.2

2014 – 9

2013 – 14

2012 – 17.4

2011 – 19.4

In 2014, a restructure produced a joined-up regulatory service, with staff from different professional disciplines sitting in mixed teams. We have therefore had to apportion the amount of time some officers from a Trading Standards background are spending on solely Trading Standards activity. However, we have been unable to accurately account for time spent on Trading Standards activity by officers from a different professional background.

The number of calls/ contacts received by the trading standards department broken down by year for the past 5 years...ie 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

Can I speak to Citizens Advice Consumer Service/Trading Standards?

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
0	1468	850	507	271

Can you advise me as I have had a dispute with a customer/trader?

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
35	149	116	92	93

Can I speak to Consumer Direct West Midlands/Trading Standards?

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
405	158	0	0	0

The number of investigations carried out by the trading standards department broken down by year for the past 5 years...ie 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

2015 – 15
2014 – 19
2013 – 15
2012 – 27
2011 –

With reference to your above question, please note some investigations can be carried out for a series of years; thus the given figures would illustrate this, rather than the number of investigations started.

With reference to your above question for the year 2011, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information. Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".

And the number of prosecutions brought by the trading standards department broken down by year for the past 5 years...ie 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011

2015 – 3
2014 – 6
2013 – 0
2012 – 4
2011 –

We have taken the bringing of a prosecution to mean the laying of information [papers] in court. For the longer investigations that we carry out, it is possible for the papers at the court to be laid the year after the investigation was started. Therefore, there is no correlation between the number of investigations started in one year, and the number of prosecutions taken in the same year.

For example: we have taken the year 2015 to begin 'April 1st 2015' until 'March 31st 2016'.

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