Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations Performance Statistics 2026–2027

This report summarises the Council's performance in handling requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) during Quarter 1 of the 2026/27 financial year (1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026). It presents information on request volumes, timeliness of responses, compliance with statutory timescales, the application of relevant legislative provisions, and the handling and outcomes of internal reviews. The statistics have been compiled to support transparency, accountability and continuous service improvement, and are published in line with the Council's commitment to openness and the principles of good information governance.

Key data collection

Data to collect	Q1 2026/2027
Total requests received	488
Total open requests	37
Total of open requests with permitted extensions – public interest test	1
Total of open requests with permitted extensions – complex and voluminous	6
Total requests closed	455
Total requests closed within statutory timescale	345
Total requests closed with a permitted extension	13
Total requests closed outside statutory timescale	110
Total closed requests where information was withheld under the provision at section 12	14
Total closed requests where information was withheld under the provision at section 14	3
Total internal reviews received	36
Total requests with a stopped clock for clarification	3
Total requests with a paused clock for fees notice	3

Note: The total open requests figure includes 33 requests received during Quarter 1 2026/27 that remained open at the end of the reporting period and 4 requests brought forward from 2025/26.

Additional data collection

Request volumes and compliance

Data to collect	Q1 2026/27
Compliance rate (%)	75.82%

Total FOI requests received	318
Total EIR requests received	170
Total of overdue requests	27
Total of overdue requests over one month old	11
Total of overdue requests over three months old	3
Total of overdue requests over six months old	0
Total of overdue requests over nine months old	0
Total of overdue requests over one year old	0

Internal review timeliness and outcomes

Internal review timeliness

Data to collect	Q1 2026/27
Total internal reviews closed within timescale	22
Total internal reviews closed outside timescale	0

Internal review outcomes

Outcome	Qtr 1 2026/27
Internal reviews upheld in full	3
Internal reviews partially upheld	10
Internal reviews not upheld (decision upheld)	9

Commentary

During Quarter 1 2026/27, the Council received 488 requests under FOIA and EIR, comprising 318 FOI requests and 170 EIR requests. A total of 455 requests were closed during the quarter, of which 345 were completed within the applicable statutory timescale, resulting in a compliance rate of 75.82%.

At the end of the quarter, 37 requests remained open. This figure includes 33 requests received during Quarter 1 and 4 requests carried forward from the previous financial year. Seven open requests were subject to a permitted extension, comprising six EIR requests classed as complex and voluminous and one FOI request subject to a public interest test extension.

The Council received 36 internal review requests during the quarter. Twenty-two internal reviews were completed, all within the Council's target timescale. Of those concluded, 9 were not upheld, 10 were partially upheld and 3 were upheld in full..

Three requests had the statutory timescale stopped pending clarification from the requester and a further three requests had the timescale paused following the issue of a fees notice.