

✓ **Topics**

**Departments (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>)**

✓ **Government activity**

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**Coronavirus (COVID-19)** [\(/coronavirus\)](/coronavirus) Guidance and support

1. [Home \(https://www.gov.uk/\)](https://www.gov.uk/)
2. [Crime, justice and the law \(https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice\)](https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice)
3. [Your rights and the law \(https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice/rights\)](https://www.gov.uk/browse/justice/rights)

# How to make a freedom of information (FOI) request

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## Organisations you can ask for information

You can request information from some public authorities, such as:

- [government departments, devolved administrations, other public bodies and committees](#) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>)
- [local councils](#) (<https://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council>)
- schools, colleges and universities
- the NHS - including hospitals, GPs, dentists, pharmacists and opticians
- publicly owned companies
- publicly funded museums, galleries and theatres
- [the police](#) and fire services
- [registered social landlords in Scotland](#)

You can make an environmental information request to private or public companies that have public responsibilities - like water companies.

If you're not sure if the organisation is one you can make a request to, check with the information commissioner for:

- Scottish public authorities - you can [search on the Scottish Information Commissioner's website](#)
- England, Wales or Northern Ireland and organisations that cover the whole of the UK - contact the Information Commissioner's Office

### Information Commissioner's Office

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Welsh language: 0330 414 6421

Textphone: 01625 532692

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

[Find out about call charges \(https://www.gov.uk/call-charges\)](#)

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## Related content

- [Data protection \(/data-protection\)](#)

- → [Next : How to make an FOI request \(/make-a-freedom-of-information-request/how-to-make-an-foi-request\)](#)

## Explore the topic

- [Your rights and the law \(/browse/justice/rights\)](#)

## Elsewhere on the web

- [Freedom of Information Act 2000 \(http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents\)](#)

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