

General Optical Council Freedom of Information Requests 1 October 2017 – 31 December 2017

FOI Reference No.	Original Request	Response
2017 – 18 Quarter 3		
FOI 2017-10	Request for transcript of hearing	Request managed as a transcript request {fees applied}
FOI 2017-11	Please can you tell me how many IP Optometrists there are in the UK?	As of 27 October 2017 there are 559 registered IP optometrists in the UK.
FOI 2017-12	For reasons of public interest we would like to make a Freedom of information request regarding a report you received concerning a alleged {Company Name Removed} branded causing bodily harm. So we may report it to the relevant authorities and take necessary actions.	<p>We are the statutory regulator for the optical professions in the UK. Our powers were given to us by Parliament, under the Opticians Act 1958. The Opticians Act gives the Council powers to make orders, rules and regulations in the relevant areas, subject to approval by the Privy Council. You are able to access a copy of the legislation in pdf format from our website.</p> <p>Due to our ongoing investigation we consider that the information you have requested is exempt from release by virtue of Section 30 (1) (a) (i & ii) (b) and (c) and (2) (a) (i) and (ii) of the Freedom of Information Act which states:</p> <p>30 –(1) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if it has at any time been held by the authority for the purpose of –</p> <p>(a) any investigation which the public authority has a duty to conduct with a view to it being ascertained –</p> <p>(i) whether a person should be charged with an offence, or</p> <p>(ii) whether a person charged with an offence is guilty of it,</p> <p>(b) any investigation which is conducted by the authority and in the circumstances may lead to a decision by the authority to institute criminal proceedings which the authority has power to conduct, or</p> <p>(c) any criminal proceedings which the authority has power to conduct.</p> <p>(2) Information held by a public authority is exempt information if –</p> <p>(a) it was obtained or recorded by the authority for the purposes of its functions relating to –</p> <p>(i) investigations falling within subsection 1(a) or (b),</p> <p>(ii) criminal proceedings which the authority has power to conduct</p>