

## Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

**Subject:** Request for statistics on the number of dormant companies registered at Companies House, the total Annual Return filing fee from dormant companies and the total of Late Filing Penalties from dormant companies.

**Date Released:** 12 June 2008

**Summary of request:** Statistics requested for the number of dormant companies on the register; the total of Annual Return filing fees from dormant companies for the last three years; the total of late filing penalties received from dormant companies and what the income received has been applied to or used for.

### Information released:

With regard to your enquiries on 17 May 2008, I shall answer them in the same order as your letter

1. Unfortunately Companies House does not hold statistics in this precise format. We can only determine if a company is dormant when it files its accounts as 'dormant accounts'. However, we do keep statistics on the number of dormant accounts that are registered each year and these are displayed on the Companies House website [www.companieshouse.gov.uk](http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk) From the top of the home page you should go to 'About Us' and then select 'Companies Register Activities 2006-07'. Table F2 of this report shows the number of dormant accounts registered for each year from 2002 to 2007. Please note that an individual company may file more than one set of dormant accounts in one year, for example if they are filing amending accounts or if they were late in filing previous years accounts. Unfortunately, we cannot determine the number of accounts filed that were included in these categories so the figures quoted in the table do not indicate the actual number of 'dormant companies' on the register at any particular point in time. The report for 2007-2008 is not currently available but is in the process of being prepared and will be published on our website shortly.
2. Companies House does not hold statistics in this format primarily because there is no requirement on the annual return form to declare dormant status. We do keep statistics on the income from Annual Return fees submitted each year but these are for all companies and they are not broken down into company type. These figures can be found in Table G1 of the report 'Companies Register Activities 2006-2007' again the table provides figures back to 2002. The report for 2007-2008 is also in the process of being prepared.
3. Again, Companies House does not hold statistics in this format. Page 38 of the Companies House Annual Report for 2006/07 shows the income received from Late Filing Penalties (2006/07 = £38.8m) but this is not broken down into company type. The Annual Report can be found on our website – from the home

page go to 'About Us' then 'Library' on the left hand side and then 'Corporate Documents' from here you can select the report you want to view, from 2004 onwards. Again, the report for 2007-2008 is not yet available

4. I should explain that Companies House is a Trading Fund and as such we must operate on a strict cost recover basis for all the services we provide. The fee for the Annual Return is based on recovering the cost of processing all documents that are received and placed on the companies register during the year, other than those which attract a separate fee. It also covers the cost of maintaining a company's record on the register. The fee does not just cover the work involved in processing the annual return form. To clarify this, the fee is now described as a fee for filing "relevant document".

With regard to the income from 'late filing penalties' the entire amount each year is remitted to HM Treasury and none of it forms part of the Trading Fund income of Companies House