

Information Released under Freedom of Information Act

Subject: Information relating to UK company identification

Date Released: 18 February 2009

Summary of request: The enquirer requested research information on UK company identification

Information released:

The following questions were asked by the enquirer

1) How is the company registration number made up (in sequence, randomly, does it represent location, etc.)

The company numbers are sequential

2) Is the company registration number used by other government departments for identification?

I am not aware of any other government departments that would specifically use the company number for identification but it may be that organisations such as Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs would use this number. You would have to check with other departments to be certain.

3) What type of IT system maintains the numbers?

The numbers are maintained by an n-tier architecture Enterprise System with a relational database at the back-end.

4) Are there public documents where we can find this information?

If you are referring to documents that outline the decision made on how UK company identification was first determined then I do not believe it would be possible to trace this as the first incorporation of a company occurred as far back as 1844. However, information about individual companies, including company numbers, are available to anyone from the public register.

5) Who could we contact at Companies House for this information?

The principle route for all general enquiries is our contact centre where most information regarding individual companies is available for a fee. The contact centre can be contacted on telephone number on 0303 1234 500 or via the following email address: enquiries@companies-house.gov.uk