

The Campaign for Freedom of Information



500 Stories from the FOI Act's First Year

Introduction

This publication contains summaries of 500 disclosures under the Freedom of Information Act that were reported in online media sources in 2005, the first year of the Act's operation. They represent only a small sample of all FOI disclosures, but give an idea of the wide range of information that has been released. They include disclosures under the UK and Scottish FOI Acts, both of which came fully into force on 1 January 2005.

We have attempted to categorise the stories by subject, newspaper and public authority making the disclosure, though in some cases the latter is not clear. Please note that the publication in which the story appeared may not have made the original FOI request itself - it may be reporting on a request made by someone else. Wherever possible we have included an Internet link for the original story. These links were correct when this document was published (July 2006), but you may find that stories have subsequently been moved by the publisher or are no longer available free of charge. Note that the headline and summaries reflect the language used in the original articles, not the views of the Campaign.

If you think you've come across a significant error, please let us know by email at admin@cfoi.demon.co.uk.

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Story	Date	Publication	Url	Public Authority	Subject
<p>Army knew of Redcap ambush Six Redcaps were murdered by an Iraqi mob while Army reinforcements were hundreds of yards away. The military policemen were ambushed at a police station at Majar Al-Kabir in June 2003. An official inquiry into the attack concluded that it "could not reasonably have been predicted" and no one was to blame. However, documents obtained under the FOI Act, show the commander on the ground Major Chris Kemp was told the trapped group were still alive - yet he did not attempt a rescue. The information was kept from the men's families, who were left to believe the Army knew nothing of the Redcaps' plight until after they had been murdered.</p>	5.12.05	The Evening Chronicle – Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16449513%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html	Ministry of Defence	Armed forces
<p>Iraq's 'hidden' casualty toll runs into thousands The number of service personnel in Iraq admitted to the British military field hospital at Shaibah has been disclosed following a FOI request. The statistics provide the fullest picture so far of the casualty toll from the Iraqi campaign. Between March 24 2003 and July 16 2005 189 personnel classified as wounded in action were admitted to the hospital, of which 109 had to be aeromedically evacuated to Britain. The number admitted with disease and non-battle injuries was 5,644, of which 1,359 were flown home.</p>	8.11.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7374-1861874,00.html	Ministry of Defence	Armed forces

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<p>790 troops seriously wounded but MoD denies cover-up Up to January 2005 790 British troops had been seriously wounded in Iraq according to figures released by the Ministry of Defence under the FOI Act. The Black Watch and the 1st Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment took the heaviest casualties. Five Black Watch soldiers died and 29 were injured in the "triangle of death" south of Baghdad last November. The Princess of Wales's Regiment suffered 48 wounded and two dead in its six-month deployment last year.</p>	19.1.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;sessionid=2E1RKXENWP1OTQFIQMGCNAGAVCBQUJVC?xml=/news/2005/01/19/wirq119.xml&secureRefresh=true&_requestid=59551	Ministry of Defence	Armed forces
<p>Inquiry into Deepcut police after note 'shows secret bias' The parents of Private Geoff Gray, one of four young recruits who died at the Deepcut training barracks in Surrey, have obtained his army records under the FOI Act. When Surrey Police announced an investigation into the deaths on 30 April 2002, officers promised they would bring a "completely open mind to the process". However documents appear to show a verdict of suicide was predetermined. Notes made by the army state that police had reassured military officials the "motive for doing this is to end the accusations that the police and/or army are covering things up." They also state "Police admitted that the investigation will have the same end result - suicide."</p>	14.6.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/uk.cfm?id=651672005	Ministry of Defence	Armed Forces
<p>Scottish regiments 'struggling' to recruit, says army chief Scotland's infantry regiments are likely to end up with only half the recruits they need in 2005, Brigadier Andrew Jackson the commander of the army's recruitment group has admitted. Figures obtained under the FOI Act show only 114 recruits joined Scottish units in the first six months of the year, 50-60% down on the previous two years. Brigadier Jackson denied that the planned formation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, which will replace the six historic units, was a factor.</p>	26.8.05	The Herald	http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/45788.html	Ministry of Defence	Armed forces

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<p>Regimental war of words Letters sent by soldiers to MPs suggest a widespread opposition to plans to merge five of Scotland's six infantry regiments. The correspondence, released by the Ministry of Defence under the FOI Act, would seem to contradict ministers' assurances last year that there was backing for the move from serving soldiers.</p>	6.6.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=618612005	Ministry of Defence	Armed forces
<p>Veterans claim evidence of 'guinea pig' vaccine trials Forces veterans have uncovered the first written evidence that they were used as human guinea pigs during the first Gulf War. For years veterans of the 1991 conflict have claimed that rushed multiple vaccinations given to troops in the lead-up to the conflict, including experimental vaccines, were among the causes of Gulf War Syndrome. A document released under the FOI Act appears to back up claims that they were given double doses of anthrax vaccines as well as unlicensed boosters. It also states that the use of boosters, given to improve the take-up of the vaccine, would "provide a unique opportunity to obtain human data".</p>	19.11.05	Yorkshire Post	http://www.yorkshiretoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=55&ArticleID=1261031	Ministry of Defence	Armed forces
<p>Syndrome war breaks out at MOD Documents disclosed under the FOI Act reveal differences between two parts of the MOD over the definition of Gulf War Syndrome. A Veterans Agency memo argued that servicemen who received vaccines, were not deployed, but still became ill should have their cases considered too: "Gulf War Syndrome claims have to be dealt with and come from claimants who have had injections and not got as far as the Gulf." But the Gulf Veterans' Illness Unit disagreed. The memo said "It would be nice to think that we would agree definitions for Gulf 2 but I have reservations on this."</p>	27.11.05	The Sunday Sun – Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/sundaysun/news/tm_objectid=16419658%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html	Ministry of Defence	Armed forces

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<p>Shortage of men allowed women to join warships Women were allowed to serve at sea because there were too few men joining the Royal Navy, according to documents released under the FOI Act. The policy, agreed in 1990, was seen as a breakthrough in equal opportunities, but Navy chiefs had no choice because of a manpower crisis. A memorandum by Admiral Sir Brian Brown, the Second Sea Lord, reveals that in 1990 there were 300 "gaps" in manpower at sea and 2,000 ashore. "Shortages exist in every officer and rating category", he wrote. The problems were "present and pressing".</p>	25.7.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-8242-1707291,00.html	Ministry of Defence	Armed forces
<p>Whitehall panic over army dirty tricks Newly released documents reveal confusion in Whitehall as officials tried to gag The Sunday Times newspaper over revelations of army dirty tricks. The papers, released under the FOI Act, concern reports based on information from a former army intelligence officer who disclosed details of army collusion with loyalist paramilitaries. One document from the Northern Ireland army press office to the army chief of staff says that a Sunday Times article by Liam Clarke, the paper's Northern Ireland editor, was "well sourced and well researched" and refers to "arguably clumsy attempts by the MOD to prevent his words being published".</p>	22.5.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-523-1622548,00.html		Armed forces
<p>UK university ethics under fire 67 UK universities hold shares in arms companies, it has been revealed. Following an FOI request, 67 out of 183 colleges and universities confirmed they held investments in six of the UK's leading arms companies, including BAE systems, GKN and Smiths Group. Cambridge and Oxford universities hold 3 million shares between them. The largest investor though is the Universities Superannuation Scheme, the lecturers' pension body, which holds more than 24 million shares.</p>	25.10.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,8164-1839659,00.html	Various universities	Arms trade

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<p>Soas sells off arms shares The School of Oriental and African Studies, part of the University of London, has announced it will be selling its investments in arms companies. The school is the fourth institution to do so after details of arms share holdings by 67 universities were published under the FOI Act. Oxford, Cambridge and Swansea universities have all started disinvestment campaigns.</p>	9.11.05	The Guardian	http://education.guardian.co.uk/higher/news/story/0,9830,1638502,00.html	Various universities	Arms trade
<p>Papers show government authorised arms bribes Papers released under the FOI Act appear to show successive governments' complicity in bribery within the arms trade. In one previously secret despatch, an army chief in London claims that 'people who deal with the arms trade, even if they are sitting in government office...day by day carry out transactions knowing that at some point bribery is involved.'</p>	18.2.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1417088,00.html	National Archives	Arms trade
<p>Dome faced closure after only five months Board minutes from the New Millennium Experience Company show that the Millennium Dome faced closure after just five months. On May 18 2000, chairman Robert Ayling told directors that unless the Millennium Commission provided additional money on May 22, the company had been advised to cease trading. Shutting the Dome was considered again at a board meeting on June 20, but directors were told this would leave the company with a bill of at least £70.3m. The minutes noted: "The board agreed that any indication that the Dome was closing earlier than 31 December would have a potentially disastrous impact on public perception of the Dome as an attraction worth visiting."</p>	9.8.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/08/09/n_dome09.xml	Department for Culture Media and Sport	Arts

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<p>Revealed: how rowdy schoolboys knocked a leg off one of the Elgin Marbles The Elgin Marbles suffered nine instances of "minor damage" from the 1960s to the early 1990s, papers show. In 1961, two schoolboys permanently damaged one of the 17 pediment figures when they began fighting in the museum's forecourt. The papers also show the continuing battle for control of the Marbles. In 2002, museum officials were worried that ministers might offer to loan the marbles to Athens to gain support for the 2012 London Olympic bid. An internal memo states "there is little to be gained politically in securing a supportive vote for a United Kingdom Olympics in 2012 from the Greek delegation... This message needs to be get through to DCMS Ministers."</p>	<p>15.5.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/05/15/nelg15.xml&sSheet=/news/2005/05/15/ixhome.html</p>	<p>British Museum</p>	<p>Arts</p>
<p>Tate pays its own trustee £600,00 The Tate paid more than £600,000 for artwork by Chris Ofili, the Turner Prize winning artist, who is one of the gallery's own trustees. In response to an FOI request, the gallery confirmed that it contributed £295,000 - £120,000 from The Tate's own funds, £100,000 from Tate members and £75,000 from the National Art Collections Fund, the art charity - towards the purchase. The rest was from private benefactors. The Tate said that it did not acquire work by serving trustees "except under special circumstances".</p>	<p>22.9.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1791307,00.html</p>	<p>The Tate</p>	<p>Arts</p>

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<p>Tate paid £700,000 for trustee's work 'after being told he needed the money' The Tate Gallery spent £700,000 buying work from one of its trustees, after being told he might need the money as he was getting married, confidential emails obtained through the FOI Act show. On 26 November 2002, the artist's agent, Victoria Miro told Sir Nicholas "There is also extra pressure as Chris is getting married next week and...may be less willing...to wait for an extended period in terms of finance." Staff at the gallery initially sought to reduce the asking price, but the documents show Ms Miro refused.</p>	23.10.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/10/23/nate23.xml	The Tate	Arts
<p>Revealed: why Adrian Noble really walked out of RSC A month before Adrian Noble quit as artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company in April 2002, the Arts Council decided not to back his plans for financial and artistic restructuring. Papers released under the FOI Act show that in March that year the Council suggested the RSC should re-evaluate its proposal, which included knocking down the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford and adopting a more star-driven casting policy.</p>	13.4.05	The Independent	http://enjoyment.independent.co.uk/theatre/news/article1448.ece	The Arts Council	Arts
<p>Revealed: Executive's culture commission to cost over £486,000 The body set up to review cultural provision in Scotland will cost the taxpayer almost half a million pounds, according to papers released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The files also reveal that some posts were filled without being advertised, and that money was diverted for the review from other arts funding accounts. The Cultural Commission began work last year and will report in June 2005.</p>	13.3.05	The Sunday Herald	http://www.sundayherald.com/48326	Scottish Executive	Arts

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<p>The BBC, Emin and a bill for £60,000 The BBC "invented" a reason why it spent £60,000 on a sculpture by Tracey Emin, internal correspondence shows. On 22 February 2005, senior BBC publicist Janet Morrow warned Head of BBC Communications, Vanda Rumney, of a "sticky situation on the public art front". "Alas, the [BBC] public art committee doesn't have a clear rationale about why the sculpture was commissioned, so... I have invented the line below which is plausible (up to a point)", she said. She then suggested the BBC should claim a long history of commissioning visual art, referring to the Eric Gill sculptures on the front of Broadcasting House.</p>	<p>20.11.05</p>	<p>The Observer</p>	<p>http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1646751,00.html</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>Arts</p>
<p>Arts Council was warned of Opera crisis in 2001 The Scottish Arts Council was warned in January 2001 of the looming financial crisis at Scottish Opera, documents disclosed under FOI show. The council commissioned Sir Peter Jonas, former head of the English National Opera, to complete an "objective assessment" of Scottish Opera's finances. Sir Peter's report predicted that the opera company was on course to run up debts of £3.6 million in three years. He warned the arts council and the Scottish Executive to face up to the opera's "in built" financial problems and increase its annual grant from £7.5m to £8.5m.</p>	<p>3.2.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/arts.cfm?id=127482005</p>	<p>Scottish Arts Council</p>	<p>Arts</p>

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<p>National theatre 'like call centre' A study for the National Theatre of Scotland found that its new office space too small, warning of "major challenges at the outset" which could "impede the effective operation of the business as a whole". Former culture minister Frank McAveety decided in 2003 to site the theatre's headquarters within a new "cultural campus" at Easterhouse. But a report by property company Jones Lang LaSalle, disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act, found that the space allocation was one usually applied to "high-density" locations such as "call centres and dealer floors". The report added it was "imperative" for the new theatre to have better accommodation if it was to recruit and retain talented staff.</p>	<p>28.8.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Herald</p>	<p>http://www.sundayherald.com/51463</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Arts</p>
<p>Theatre bid spends £2m Figures released under the FOI Act show that over £2m has been spent on Shrewsbury's new theatre project before building work has begun. Most of the money went towards purchasing the land in Frankwell Quay, with the rest spent on architects, quantity surveyors and consultancy fees.</p>	<p>21.3.05</p>	<p>Shropshire Star</p>	<p>http://www.shropshirestar.com/show_article.php?aID=30946</p>	<p>Shrewsbury Borough Council</p>	<p>Arts</p>
<p>Arts centre plan funding review Councillors used the FOI Act to obtain documents relating to a proposed £16.5m visual arts centre from Colchester Borough Council. The disclosure prompted 5 councillors to ask for the decision to release £1.5m of funding for the project to be "called in", and led to a further funding review by the council's strategic overview and scrutiny panel.</p>	<p>4.4.05</p>	<p>East Anglican Daily Times</p>		<p>Colchester Borough Council</p>	<p>Arts</p>

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<p>Eisteddfod considered bankruptcy The Welsh Eisteddfod festival considered bankruptcy at the height of its financial crisis in 2004, documents released under the FOI Act reveal. Minutes of a meeting between the Welsh Language Board and the eisteddfod on 9 September 2004 state that “some lawyers on the (eisteddfod) working committee were in favour” of bankruptcy. In the end a “crisis plan” was drawn up to address the £350,000 debt instead. It pledged to cut costs, saving £200,000. The crisis was further alleviated by an emergency grant of £80,000 from the Welsh Assembly Government.</p>	29.7.05	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/wales/north_west/4729777.stm	Welsh Assembly Government	Arts
<p>New National Galleries director may find room for a Vettriano Documents released under the FOI (Scotland) Act reveal that Richard Calvocoressi, director of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, described Jack Vettriano as “an indifferent painter” who based his success on “cheap commercial reproductions”. Vettriano, a Fife-born former miner, who taught himself to paint, is a populist icon but a pariah among Scotland’s high-brow arts establishment.</p>	4.9.05	Sunday Times Scotland	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-1764423,00.html	National Galleries of Scotland	Arts
<p>To catch a thief The UK government shelved the idea of creating a national database of stolen and illegally removed cultural artefacts in 2004, claiming an independent appraisal had concluded that it would not be effective in combating the trade. However, a copy of the appraisal, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, showed strong support for the idea.</p>	15.8.05	New Statesman	http://www.newstatesman.com/Arts/200508150012	Home Office	Arts

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<p>Sir Sean urged Jack to make fireworks sparkle Sir Sean Connery had talks with Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell, about making Edinburgh's Festival fireworks concert more accessible to local people. In particular, the actor wanted to make sure families with children were able to enjoy the extravaganza. A note of the meeting on 4 September 2004 also records: "Sir Sean touched on the notion he might act as some sort of 'ambassador' for Scotland". "He indicated that he was very keen to lend his weight to any efforts to promote Scotland, but was not in a position to take on the paperwork and duties that might go with any formally designated position."</p>	<p>2.6.05</p>	<p>Evening News - Edinburgh</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/topics.cfm?tid=1104&id=605532005</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Arts</p>
<p>New pub law will fuel rape and murder, say police A study by Scotland Yard on the impact of extended licensing hours predicted an "increase in the number of investigations of drink-related crimes" such as rape, assault, homicide and domestic violence. The report, disclosed under the FOI Act, also warns that officers will face "increasing levels of violence" and more frequent "flash points". It recommends the Territorial Support Group, a special unit that deals with large-scale disorder, be put on 24 hour standby.</p>	<p>11.9.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1774615,00.html</p>	<p>Metropolitan Police</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>Violent crime figures for rail stations Figures detailing the number of violent crimes at stations in London and surrounding commuter areas have been disclosed under the FOI Act. The data, released by the British Transport Police, shows there was 28 incidents at Norwich mainline station from April 2004 to January 2005, which represents only 0.001% of the 2.8m people passing through. Victoria, one of London's busiest stations, had the most incidents with 141. It also ranked highest amongst Underground stations, with 57 incidents.</p>	<p>8.2.05</p>	<p>Eastern Daily Press</p>	<p>http://new.edp24.co.uk/search/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&itemid=NOED08%20Feb%202005%2022:08:04:077&tBrand=EDPOnline&tCategory=search</p>	<p>British Transport Police</p>	<p>Assaults</p>

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<p>4,000 shot in Britain in a year Almost 4,000 people in Britain suffered gun shot injuries between April 2002 and March 2003. Of these, 81 died and 518 people needed to be detained in hospital. The data, released by the Home Office under the FOI Act, reveals that 187 people were seriously injured by handguns, 41 were wounded with shotguns and 2,187 had minor wounds from air guns.</p>	<p>16.1.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1442617,00.html</p>	<p>Home Office</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>Knife violence More than 2,100 people were treated for stab wounds in Scotland last year, according to figures released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. A further 1,500 were treated for injuries that hospital staff believed to be caused by blades.</p>		<p>The Sunday Times - Scotland</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printfriendly/0,,2-1506-1533604,00.html</p>	<p>Scottish health boards</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>The truth: violence on mean streets There were 26,643 violent assaults in Wales last year, figures disclosed by the four Welsh police forces show. In 2005, there were 12,836 violent crimes in the five months between April and August.</p>	<p>13.11.05</p>	<p>Wales on Sunday</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=16366405&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=the-truth--violence-on-mean-streets-name_page.html</p>	<p>Welsh police forces</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>Four hurt every day Every day four nurses, doctors or other NHS hospital workers are attacked in the North-East, according to figures obtained through the FOI Act. In the year up to March 31, 2005, there were 1,423 assaults on hospital staff, an average of 3.9 every day. Whilst some assaults were minor, others included nurses being stabbed with syringes, grabbed by the neck and kicked in the stomach.</p>	<p>9.5.05</p>	<p>The Journal - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/thejournal/regional/tm_objectid=15494571%26method=full%26siteid=50081%26page=1%26headline=four%2dhurt%2deach%2dday-name_page.html</p>	<p>NHS trusts</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>170 attacks a year on hospital staff There were more than 170 incidents of violence and aggression against staff at a Cambridge hospital last year, according to data released under the FOI Act. Staff have been punched, kicked, bitten and spat at in attacks occurring on average three times a day.</p>	<p>15.2.05</p>	<p>Cambridge Evening News</p>		<p>Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p>	<p>Assaults</p>

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<p>6,000 attacks a year on lifesavers Health workers in Greater Manchester suffered around 6,000 incidents of physical and verbal assault last year, an average of 16 attacks a day. The most violent incidents included nurses having knives thrown at them, a paramedic held at gunpoint, healthcare professionals pounced on by gangs of youths and a nurse hit so hard she lost part of a tooth filling.</p>	<p>3.6.05</p>	<p>Manchester Evening News</p>	<p>http://www.manchesteronline.co.uk/men/news/health/s/161/161129_6000_attacks_a_year_on_lifesavers.html</p>		<p>Assaults</p>
<p>University staff 'face threats' More than a thousand incidents of violence or harassment against university staff have been recorded in the past five years. The figures, released by universities under the FOI Act, show there were 178 instances of physical violence and 832 of threatening or intimidating behaviour, with one student sent to prison for assault. However, the disclosures also reveal an uneven level of recording of threats and violence, with 37 institutions saying they had not recorded any incidents of aggression since 2000.</p>	<p>9.6.05</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/education/4076514.stm</p>	<p>Various universities</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>Well schooled in pupil problems Police officers have been called out 2,080 times to 16 schools across Northumberland and Tyne & Wear since 2003. According to data released under the FOI Act, the number of call-outs for individual schools ranged from 80 to 170. At one unnamed secondary school police recovered two weapons and made 29 arrests for assaults, drug use and thefts.</p>	<p>11.6.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/news/tm_objectid=15625436%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>Northumbria Police</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>Schools demand power to expel violent pupils Details of attacks by pupils on teachers in Scotland have been revealed under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. The figures show that the most violent school is Drumchapel High School in Glasgow, where 101 attacks on teachers took place in 2003-2004. Seven of the country's ten most violent schools were in Glasgow.</p>	<p>27.2.05</p>	<p>Sunday Times</p>		<p>Scottish schools</p>	<p>Assaults</p>

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<p>School staff face daily attacks There were 511 reports of assaults on workers in Coventry's schools during 2004, according to statistics obtained under the FOI Act. The figures are broken down in more detail for the period spanning April to December, and show that there were 153 attacks on education assistants, 124 on teachers, 15 on nursery nurses and eight on head teachers. Injuries ranged from bruising to concussion and a fracture. Figures for Warwickshire schools show there were 160 reported attacks during 2004.</p>	<p>26.5.05</p>	<p>Coventry Evening Telegraph</p>	<p>http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15560042&method=full&siteid=50003&headline=school-staff-face-daily-attacks-name_page.html</p>	<p>Coventry City Council/ Warwickshire County Council</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>Hoard of school weapons seized More than 300 weapons including air pistols, swords and an improvised flame-thrower, have been seized from Scotland's school children in the past year, according to figures obtained under the FOI (Scotland) Act. Knives made up a third of the haul. Glasgow alone accounted for 118 weapons seizures.</p>	<p>6.11.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times Scotland</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-1859930,00.html</p>	<p>Scottish councils</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>Blair High's bully shame Documents uncovered through the FOI (Scotland) Act show 275 incidents of bullying were reported in a sixteen-month period at Blairgowrie High School in Perthshire. The school caught the public's attention in May 2003, when a 17 year-old prefect took out an interim interdict against four girls she accused of bullying her.</p>	<p>7.4.05</p>	<p>www.icperthshire.co.uk</p>		<p>Perth and Kinross Council</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>Assaults soar among children in care There were around 400 incidents of children assaulting other children in care homes, figures from over half of Scotland's 32 councils show. Assaults ranged from using weapons and throwing objects to shouting and swearing. The data, released under the FOI (Scotland) Act, also reveals that there were 1,191 incidents of children assaulting staff. The figures show an increase for most areas though local authorities suggest that may be because of more robust reporting methods.</p>	<p>15.2.05</p>	<p>The Herald</p>		<p>Scottish local authorities</p>	<p>Assaults</p>

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<p>Threats saved beauty spots from nuclear waste dumps Sites in Wales earmarked for the potential disposal of nuclear waste were dropped from consideration because survey staff were threatened. Nineteen sites across Wales were initially under consideration but the majority were dropped following the report's suggestion for the "removal from consideration of a large proportion of the potential sites in Wales...following previous experience...when personal threats were received by staff involved in the consideration of such sites".</p>	<p>11.6.05</p>	<p>Western Mail</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/newspolitics/tm_objectid=15618521%26method=full%26siteid=50082-name_page.html</p>	<p>Nirex</p>	<p>Assaults</p>
<p>I've got freedom of information. Now I'd like a man in a uniform Hampshire constabulary has 266 eligible bachelors between the age of 35 and 49, according to data released through the FOI Act. Of these, 201 wear uniform. The disclosure follows an opportunistic request for not only the number of such bachelors but their email addresses, salary details and pension values.</p>	<p>19.3.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1441353,00.html</p>	<p>Hampshire Constabulary</p>	<p>Batchelors</p>
<p>Nursing homes fail to learn lessons of Rosepark blaze Documents disclosed by the Scottish fire service reveal that 18 months after 14 people died in a fire at the Rosepark nursing home in Lanarkshire, care homes across Scotland have failed to improve fire safety. At Maryfield East care home in Aberdeen, the plan in the event of a fire was to leave disabled residents in the building and to await the arrival of the fire engines. A check at Aberdon House in Aberdeen revealed two 10,000-litre oil tanks housed under the building, with no assessment of associated risks. In many homes escape routes were blocked by rubbish and flammable material, often after repeated warnings from fire officers.</p>	<p>17.7.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2-1506-1697719,00.html</p>	<p>Scottish fire services</p>	<p>Care</p>

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<p>Councils wasting millions in care costs, secret report reveals A government report released under the FOI (Scotland) Act shows large disparities between councils in the price and standards of service provided under the Supporting People programme. The audit shows, for example, that in one authority a full-time carer, present day and night, cost £127,212 whereas in another the charge was £8,454. The scheme, which had a budget last year of £426m, is aimed at providing local authorities with government funds to support the elderly, disabled and infirm at home.</p>	13.2.05	Scotland on Sunday	http://news.scotsman.com/archive.cfm?id=166712005		Care
<p>Wrangle over one word exposes Labour pledge Documents released under the FOI Act shed light on delays by the Welsh Assembly Government in implementing plans for free home care for the disabled. One of the primary causes is a semantic debate over the definition of 'disabled', with the Assembly Government planning an extensive consultancy exercise on it later this year.</p>	4.3.05	Western Mail	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15255604&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=wrangle-over-one-word-exposes-labour-pledge-name_page.html	Welsh Assembly Government	Care
<p>Ministers admit estimates for free care were wrong Population estimates used by the Scottish Executive to form costings for the policy of free care for the elderly were incorrect, according to figures released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. Corrected projections will add 9% to the annual cost of the policy by 2022.</p>	17.2.05	The Herald		Scottish Executive	Care

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<p>New probe shock over hostel A homeless hostel in Stafford lost its main source of funding because it breached health and safety rules, according to a report released under the FOI Act. The hostel scored an “unacceptable” D grading in all four of its core objectives. Concerns included the admittance of under-18s, who according to the report, were subsequently bullied, intimidated and put at risk of developing drug addictions by other residents. However, a spokesman for the hostel said that ‘the trust is in a legal process of challenging the review on the grounds that it is in part inaccurate, (and) in part untrue.’</p>	<p>25.3.05</p>	<p>Express and Star – W. Mids</p>	<p>http://www.expressandstar.com/cgi-bin/artman/exec/view.cgi?archive=27&num=72957</p>		<p>Care</p>
<p>Fury as reason for appeal snub revealed Minutes from a lottery funding meeting have revealed the reasons why grants were not given to We Care, a charity supporting carers. The documents, obtained under the FOI Act, reveal that the application was deemed “unimaginative” and “unfocused”, and inappropriate because it addressed “short-term and palliative” needs. However, the decision makers also admitted they faced a ‘reputational risk’ in not agreeing to the £300,000 bid.</p>	<p>16.2.05</p>	<p>Eastern Daily Press</p>		<p>Big Lottery Fund</p>	<p>Care</p>
<p>Child Support Agency The Department of Work and Pensions spent £46.8m setting up the computer system at the Child Support Agency, according to documents released under the FOI Act. The files also show that Texan computer firm EDS has so far been paid £149.5m under a 10 year PFI contract, with £12.1m withheld by the government due to the system’s poor performance.</p>	<p>6.3.05</p>	<p>The Independent on Sunday</p>		<p>Department for Work and Pensions</p>	<p>Child support</p>

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<p>Child Support Agency forced to pay back wrongly accused men The Child Support Agency has had to pay refunds to more than 3,000 men after DNA tests revealed that they had been wrongly named by mothers in paternity suits. Since 1998 3,034 men have been falsely accused out of a total 15,909 who have taken a DNA test. Under CSA rules, men must start paying maintenance the moment they are named by mothers as the father of a child. The CSA has not recovered money from any of the mothers.</p>	<p>28.11.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/frontpage/story/0,16518,1652434,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Work and Pensions</p>	<p>Child support</p>
<p>Whitehall sees off pressure for redundancies Seven Whitehall departments have not made any redundancies since the Treasury Efficiency Review chaired by Sir Peter Gershon called for 84,000 jobs to be shed by April 2008. They include the Home Office and Department for Education and Skills which were urged to axe nearly 2,000 staff, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which was instructed to lower its headcount by 310.</p>	<p>18.9.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2005/09/18/cnjobs18.xml&menuId=242&sheet=/portal/2005/09/18/ixportal.html</p>	<p>Various government departments</p>	<p>Civil service</p>
<p>Chancellor is failing to cut jobs, claims report The number of civil service posts has grown by 44,000 since 1997. The figures, disclosed under the FOI Act, also reveal that an extra 650,000 staff are employed across the public sector as a whole. The Chancellor Gordon Brown has pledged to cut 84,150 Whitehall posts by 2008.</p>	<p>6.8.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/08/06/ngordon06.xml</p>		<p>Civil service</p>
<p>Civil service warning to McConnell Papers released under the FOI (Scotland) Act, show that First Minister Jack McConnell was warned by civil servants after he claimed his bid to cut public sector costs would "go further" than Gordon Brown's. Minutes of the senior management group chaired by Permanent Secretary, John Elvidge, state "Care needed to ensure that we do not claim our targets to be greater than the targets for the UK departments."</p>	<p>30.10.05</p>	<p>Scotland on Sunday</p>	<p>http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=2168002005</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Civil service</p>

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<p>Secret papers reveal Falconer role in breaking up NUM Lord Falconer, now the Lord Chancellor but then a barrister in private practice, provided legal advice to the National Coal Board at the height of the miners' strike, documents disclosed under the FOI Act reveal. Lord Falconer and another barrister advised the board on how they could safely recognise the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers without provoking a legal challenge from the National Union of Mineworkers, led by Arthur Scargill. Minutes show the barristers stressed it was "fundamental that the Lynk union [UDM] was not seen to be an [NCB] creation."</p>	<p>16.5.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1484717,00.html</p>	<p>National Archives</p>	<p>Coal industry</p>
<p>Coal Board panicked over Scargill libel A false story circulated by the National Coal Board that Arthur Scargill, leader of the National Miners' Union, chose to pose for his waxwork at Madame Tussuads rather than discuss pit safety, caused panic at the National Coal Board when he sued for libel. NCB memos released under the FOI Act show one lawyer warned that the miners' leader could be awarded £7,000. But another memo cautioned that the legal advice did "not take account of the complex political issues which the case raises...and also Mr Scargill's liking for libel actions generally."</p>	<p>6.5.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1484619,00.html</p>	<p>National Archives</p>	<p>Coal industry</p>

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<p>Files expose miners' strike divisions National Coal Board papers from the 1984-85 miners' strike have been released under the FOI Act. The papers expose how the strike tore communities apart. Among the papers is a memo from a Mr G Longmate, colliery manager at the Markham Main pit in Yorkshire. In February 1985, one of Mr Longmate's working miners complained to the press he was not getting adequate protection after his house was vandalised. In his memo to the NCB, Mr Longmate insisted he had done all he could: "As a manager I spent a major part of my life at this time nursing Smith and other workers and attending to their every need". But he said that Mr Smith had not helped himself by telling another miner named Taylor that he planned to break the strike. "Taylor was a bad choice for him to confide in as he is a close friend of Joe Johnson (radical left winger and active unionist)."</p>	<p>4.1.05</p>	<p>Birmingham Post</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/post/business/tm_objectid=15151842%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>National Archives</p>	<p>Coal industry</p>
<p>£3.5m paid out in vaccine damages The Department of Work and Pensions has paid out £3.5m to patients left disabled by vaccinations since 1997. Documents released under the FOI Act show that every successful claimant has received a tax-free £100,000, and that there have been 35 such payments.</p>	<p>16.03.05</p>	<p>Evening Standard</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4356027.stm</p>	<p>Department for Work and Pensions</p>	<p>Compensation</p>
<p>Hospital 'negligence' payouts revealed Hospitals in north Essex have paid out nearly £13 million in three years to settle clinical negligence claims. Two hundred patients brought claims between April 2001 and April 2004, while up to 50 NHS employees also sought damages for ailments such as stress and back problems. In the same period, Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust paid out £9.4million in damages and £3.4million in legal costs. Thirteen of the claims were brought for alleged plastic surgery mistakes at the Mid Essex trust, while 25 related to incidents in casualty, 38 in obstetrics and gynaecology, 26 in general surgery as well as two in anaesthesia.</p>	<p>6.6.05</p>	<p>East Anglian Daily Times</p>	<p>Historical</p>	<p>Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust, Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust</p>	<p>Compensation</p>

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<p>£49m bill for NHS blunders Hospital blunders in Wales have cost taxpayers £49m in the past two years. More than 200 victims of medical mistakes successfully claimed money from Welsh health authorities. Last year alone, 98 cases of claims and patients' legal fees came to £26m. The largest payout was more than £2.5m for a patient who had an unnecessary operation on their abdomen. The laparotomy - a diagnostic test - caused neurological damage to the patient.</p>	<p>7.8.05</p>	<p>Wales on Sunday</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15828681&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=-pound-49m----name_page.html</p>		<p>Compensation</p>
<p>£4 million compo hampers the hard-hit hospitals Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust paid out almost £4m compensation for clinical negligence claims in 2004-5, figures released under the FOI Act have revealed. However, the total bill to the Trust, including defence and claimants' costs was £4.849m. In 2003-4 the total compensation bill was £1.599m, of which £949,584 was in damages. The financially troubled trust is currently about £23 million in debt.</p>	<p>3.11.05</p>	<p>Bromsgrove Standard</p>		<p>Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust</p>	<p>Compensation</p>
<p>Hospitals pay out £14m Hospital errors have cost health trusts in the North East more than £14m. Figures under the FOI Act show that £14,396,275 has been paid in compensation and legal fees in the past 12 months. Of the total, £9m was due to errors in hospital obstetrics and gynaecology departments, while £3.1m related to surgery and £915,400 to medicine-mistakes. More than £3m went on legal bills. The figures also show that more than £11,000 was paid out in the past 12 months in relation to Primary Care services, including GPs, in the area.</p>	<p>12.8.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=15850536%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>NHS Litigation Authority</p>	<p>Compensation</p>

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<p>£1m 'deal' for abuse Victims of a child-abuse scandal have been paid a total of £1 million by Birmingham City Council. Ninety-four men received between £500 - £65,000 each for assaults at the Tennial centre in Harborne, where paedophiles sought out jobs as carers, teachers and nightwatchmen. The centre closed in 1984 but an inquiry 15 years later led to the jailing of 5 men. Details of the settlements were disclosed under the FOI Act.</p>	<p>8.8.05</p>	<p>The Mirror</p>	<p>http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/tm_objectid=15831331&method=full&siteid=94762&headline=-pound-1m--deal--for-abuse--name_page.html</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council</p>	<p>Compensation</p>
<p>Crusading cops come a cropper North Wales Police has paid more than £170,000 in compensation to people involved in police car collisions in the past three years. The figures, disclosed under the FOI Act, show the force paid out £33,798 last year following 49 compensation claims. In 2003/4 it paid out £60,347 and £76,786 the year before. The largest number of accidents, 24, took place at intersections. The figures also show police cars hit "animals or objects" five times and pedestrians and cyclists twice, whilst head-on collisions with other vehicles resulted in seven claims.</p>	<p>25.9.05</p>	<p>Wales on Sunday</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=16171590&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=crusading-cops-come-a-cropper-name_page.html</p>	<p>North Wales Police</p>	<p>Compensation</p>
<p>Police are paying out thousands to injured officers Figures disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act reveal that Scottish police forces have paid out almost £5m in compensation to officers since 2000. The most common claim is for back injury. In 2005, a constable claimed £4,500 for an injury caused whilst moving a dead body. In another recent lawsuit, a constable successfully sued for £5,000 for exposure to "excessive" noise levels whilst on motorcycle duties. Other claims included an officer being hit in the face with a towel roller and another who suffered head injuries when a door magnet fell on him.</p>	<p>10.10.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=2064612005</p>	<p>Scottish police forces</p>	<p>Compensation</p>

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<p>Injured school staff get £1/2m School staff across the North East have received almost £500,000 in compensation since 2002 after suffering attacks or injury at work. Figures released under the FOI Act show that there have been 58 payouts, ranging from £200 to £132,000, for cases including assaults by pupils and injuries sustained whilst trying to restrain fighting students.</p>	<p>4.6.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/news/tm_objectid=15596986%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>North East local authorities</p>	<p>Compensation</p>
<p>Record teacher payouts Almost £400,000 in compensation has been paid out to teachers in Wales in the last three years. Since 2002, 43 teachers have received payments ranging from £150 to £40,000 following attacks by pupils or accidents at work. The figures show that Powys, which settled 10 cases in the period, including one where a teacher slipped on a wet floor, had the highest compensation bill of £94,947.</p>	<p>2.10.05</p>	<p>Wales on Sunday</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/1100education/tm_objectid=16200777&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=record-teacher-payouts-name_page.html</p>	<p>Welsh local authorities</p>	<p>Compensation</p>
<p>How parents are cashing in on claims culture in city's schools Around 1,000 compensation bids were lodged against Glasgow schools between 1996 and 2004. These included allegations of sex abuse, physical injuries, bullying, and teachers failing to spot dyslexia. But some involved more trivial matters such as claims made after a girl's jacket was damaged by Tipex and another pupil who got chewing gum on her coat. Around £236,000 has been awarded by the council since 1997 in 420 cases.</p>	<p>18.3.05</p>	<p>Evening Times - Glasgow</p>	<p>http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/hi/news/5036699.html</p>	<p>Glasgow City Council</p>	<p>Compensation</p>
<p>Hospital staff in £100,000 payout Personal injury claims by staff cost a Cambridge hospital nearly £100,000 last year in damages and legal fees. Figures released under the FOI Act show that seven members of staff received damages, the largest payment being £9,990 to a staff member who acquired industrial dermatitis. In the same period £9,270 was paid to 73 patients in non-clinical compensation cases including loss of clothes, dentures and glasses.</p>	<p>6.6.05</p>	<p>Cambridge News</p>	<p>http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/city/2005/06/06/3b3d8780-eb2e-4df8-99be-3e68c596076c.lpf</p>	<p>Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust</p>	<p>Compensation</p>

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<p>Foot and mouth farmers got £1m Twelve Scottish farmers received compensation of more than £1m each for livestock slaughtered during the foot and mouth cull. The highest single award was £4.2m. Fifty-three farmers each received between £500,000 and £900,000 in compensation.</p>	7.8.05	The Sunday Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-1724949,00.html	Scottish Executive	Compensation
<p>Crime does pay Prisons in the North-East have paid out more than £100,000 in compensation to inmates since 2003. The figures, released in response to an FOI request, include claims for lost clothes and breaches of the Data Protection Act. Frankland Prison in Durham paid out the most, with payments totalling nearly £70,000. There were 27 claims at Frankland between 2003 and 2004, costing £58,107, and 34 between 2004 and 2005, costing £10,063.</p>	15.10.05	Evening Chronicle - Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16252884%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html		Compensation
<p>Labour under fire over £58m set-up cost of NDA The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has cost £58.5m to set up, according to figures obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. Much of this figure was spent on consultants' fees. The DTI had previously refused to say how much it had paid US group Bechtel, but the figures revealed the company received £9m. The authority, which began work on 1st April, will be responsible for overseeing the decommissioning of the UK's civil nuclear legacy.</p>	6.3.05	The Independent on Sunday		Department of Trade and Industry	Consultants

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<p>Scotland's councils are spending soaring amounts of taxpayers' money on outside consultants, despite taking on large numbers of extra staff Details of the amount spent by Scotland's councils on consultants have been disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act. Edinburgh City Council spent £4.5m on outside advice last year, compared with £1.8m in 2000. It said the rise was due to a large number of new projects, such as trams in the city. Many smaller councils spending on consultants has also risen steeply. Argyll and Bute's spending rose from £167,000 in 2001, to £1.1m last year. The number of people employed by local authorities in Scotland topped 300,000 for the first time last year.</p>	<p>16.10.05</p>	<p>Scotland on Sunday</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=2095762005</p>	<p>Scottish local authorities</p>	<p>Consultants</p>
<p>Citigroup paid £6.5m rail fees Investment bank Citigroup was paid more than £6.5m to advise the Department for Transport on the financing of Network Rail. Details of the payment were disclosed in response to an FOI request for consultants' fees. The disclosure also revealed that PA Consulting has received more than £5m from the Department since May 2002 and Mercer Management Consulting received £2.5m to advise on the Rail Review.</p>	<p>11.9.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://business.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,9063-1774159,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Transport</p>	<p>Consultants</p>
<p>Fire fighters angry over £14m consultancy fees The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister spent more than £14m on consultancy fees up to the end of June 2005, almost twice the annual budget for community fire safety initiatives. The figures, obtained by the Fire Brigades Union under the Freedom of Information Act, are being cited as evidence that the regionalisation programme costs are spiralling out of control.</p>	<p>28.9.05</p>	<p>Cambridge Evening News</p>	<p>http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/region_wide/2005/09/28/ba356f3b-a1ba-4444-acba-f905736650d4.lpf</p>	<p>Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Communities and Local Government)</p>	<p>Consultants</p>

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<p>Firemen challenge £31m IT bill Information obtained under the FOI Act from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister reveals that £31.1 million has been budgeted for IT consultants as part of the emergency fire control project. The government estimates that £42.3m will be saved by the project, which will consolidate the 46 local fire control offices across England into nine regional control offices.</p>	24.6.05	The Register	http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/06/24/fire_union_it_spend_row/	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	Consultants
<p>£1,000 per day A consultant employed by Bristol City Council to shake up its social services department cost £1,000 a day. Ian White, former director of social services at Hertfordshire County Council, worked for the department for 50 days, meaning the total bill for his work was £50,000. In response to a FOI request, the Council also disclosed that it has spent £1.2m on consultants in the two years from April 2003.</p>	5.10.05	Evening Post - Bristol	http://www.thisisBristol.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=144936&command=displayContent&sourceNode=144919&contentPK=13265339&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarsearch	Bristol City Council	Consultants
<p>Lambasted consultancy was hired by Treasury The Treasury has revealed details of the eight most valuable management consultancy contracts it has awarded in the last three financial years. Sixth on the list is LF Consulting, which received £115,650 for unspecified work. The firm was criticised in a High Court judgement for giving poor advice on R&D tax credits.</p>	1.12.05	Accountancy Age	http://www.accountancyage.com/accountancyage/news/2146968/lambasted-consultancy-hired	Treasury	Consultants
<p>£1m 'wasted' on health policy consultation Market research company, Opinion Leader Research, was paid £900,799 as part of the public consultation exercise "Your Health, Your Care, Your Say". The Department of Health disclosed the fee in response to a Freedom of Information request. A white paper on the provision of healthcare outside hospitals is expected to be published in December 2005.</p>	9.10.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/10/09/n_doh09.xml&sSheet=/news/2005/10/09/ixhome.html	Department of Health	Consultants

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<p>Struggling beacon gets report No12 Copeland Borough Council has hired six different teams of consultants to reverse the fortunes of The Beacon, a struggling Whitehaven tourist attraction. In a seven-year period, the consultancy firms have produced 12 separate reports on The Beacon, at a cost of nearly £100,000. In January 2001, market research by Joan Ellis Associates, found that although the attraction was perceived to be good for the town, its targets for visitor numbers were "inflated, over-ambitious and had not been achieved".</p>	<p>16.6.05</p>	<p>Whitehaven News</p>		<p>Copeland Borough Council</p>	<p>Consultants</p>
<p>Skye Bridge tolls 'not mentioned' The power to charge tolls was not mentioned in the original permit to operate the Skye Bridge, documents have revealed. The Scottish Executive abolished the tolls in 2004 after buying back the bridge for £27m, but controversy has remained over whether the private developers had the legal authority to charge motorists. Approximately 130 protesters were convicted in court for refusing to pay the tolls and some were even imprisoned.</p>	<p>14.10.05</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/4340376.stm</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Contracts</p>
<p>'Unsuitable' firm won huge MoD contract Documents revealing that MoD officials had doubts about the competence of a firm prior to it being awarded a £576m nuclear defence contract have been disclosed under the FOI Act. An evaluation by MoD officials concluded that DML failed 8 out of 10 criteria measuring its competence and should not be "considered a suitable organisation to be awarded the contract". In 1997, the contract was awarded to the company. Three years ago, the Public Accounts Committee found that costs had risen to £933m, which the MoD blamed on the "poor performance" of the company and unforeseen safety regulations.</p>	<p>22.8.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1553654,00.html</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence</p>	<p>Contracts</p>

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<p>Whitehall probe into troubled EDS's finances The government ordered four probes into the financial affairs of EDS, the Texas-based firm that is one of Whitehall's biggest IT contractors. Two of the inquiries, known as Ranger I and Ranger II, were commissioned from accountants Deloitte in 2002 and 2004. Two more were done internally by the Office of Government Commerce in 2004. The OGC did not reveal why it had commissioned the reports or their content, but their timing coincides with a rocky period for the firm.</p>	<p>13.2.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>		<p>Office of Government Commerce</p>	<p>Contracts</p>
<p>MoD comes under fire for discrimination against small firms Ministry of Defence buyers appear to have favoured bids from large firms when awarding a contract for air traffic control services. High Wycombe based Safeskys' bid was £484,000 cheaper than that of the winner, National Air Traffic Services, which is 49 per cent government owned. But Nats won extra points for being the "market leader", having a "large and qualified manpower base" and for owning a training college, which tipped the "value for money" assessment in its' favour.</p>	<p>8.11.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2005/11/08/cbmod08.xml</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence</p>	<p>Contracts</p>
<p>Ministers knew of inquiry into Polish yard Scottish ministers awarded a contract to a Polish shipyard knowing it was likely to be investigated by the EU over illegal state subsidies. In a letter to the Scotland Office DTI minister Alun Michael wrote "I gather that the [European] commission will be launching an inquiry and this will start with the Polish government being asked for comments." He added "It is for the Scottish Executive to consider what impact these commission investigations and the potential outcomes may have on their own procurement decisions." The letter was copied to Ross Finnie, the Executive's environment minister. Two months later Mr Finnie awarded the contract to Remontowa over Ferguson's of Glasgow, Scotland's last commercial shipyard.</p>	<p>26.8.05</p>	<p>The Herald</p>			<p>Contracts</p>

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<p>UK council pays £7.7m to escape outsourcing deal Bedfordshire County Council has paid business service provider HBS £7.7m to terminate its £250m, 12-year outsourcing contract prematurely. Details of the settlement reached last month had been confidential, but were disclosed by the Council under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	14.9.05	The Register	http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/09/14/bedfordshire_terminates_hbs_outsourcing_deal/	Bedfordshire County Council	Contracts
<p>Official forged bids for contract A firm won a council contract to survey housing in North Tyneside after an official forged all the other bids. Minutes of a meeting between council and government officials conclude that "documents purporting to be tenders had in fact all been written" by the same man, who was suspended and then resigned. The council was satisfied that the firm that won the tender had "no involvement with the deception", and that there was "no evidence of personal gain" for the council official.</p>	5.2.05	The Journal - Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/thejournal/thejournal/tm_objectid=15163034%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html	Government Office for the North East	Contracts
<p>MG Rover inspector clocks up £12,000 a day One of the two investigators appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate the collapse of MG Rover has charged almost £12,000 a day. Figures disclosed under the FOI Act reveal that Gervase MacGregor, head of forensic accounting at BDO Stoy Hayward, lodged a £1.09m bill for three months work to August 31 2005, which works out at £11,860 a day.</p>	8.11.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2005/11/08/cnrover08.xml	Department of Trade and Industry	Costs
<p>Road toll plan is £9m dead end Failed plans to introduce road tolls in Edinburgh cost £9million, figures disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act reveal. The figures show that £1.5m was spent on the publicity campaign, staff pay cost £837,222 and the bill for the referendum in February 2005, in which 74% opposed the plan, was £521,781. The amount also included legal costs of £1,238,484, technical costs of £2,070,824 and "other costs" of £2,844,576.</p>	22.11.05	Daily Record	http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/tm_objectid=16397582&method=full&siteid=66633&headline=road-toll-plan-is--pound-9m-dead-end--name_page.html	Edinburgh City Council	Costs

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<p>BBC move to Manchester The cost of the BBC's planned move of 2,000 staff to Manchester is between £530m and £640m, far more than previous estimates. The figures were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	29.5.05	The Sunday Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-533-1627473,00.html	BBC	Costs
<p>£80m paid to protect potential targets of terrorists The cost of the Key Persons Protection Scheme for vulnerable figures under threat from paramilitaries in Northern Ireland has been disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act. Between 2002-2005, £31.5m was spent on the scheme, a figure that includes large sums allocated to protect those whose details were compromised by the alleged spy operations at Castlereagh police station and Stormont.</p>	15.9.05	Belfast Telegraph	http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/story.jsp?story=661569	Northern Ireland Office	Costs
<p>Empty city office rented for £1.1m The government is paying £1.1m a year to rent empty office blocks in the centre of Birmingham. Chamberlain House and 77 Paradise Circus have been vacant since January 2005 when the Government Office for the West Midlands moved out. But rent, rates and service charges amounting to £1,155,758 are still being paid. GOWM's new offices at 5 St. Philip's Place, off Colmore Row cost £2.1m a year.</p>	22.8.05	Birmingham Post	http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15883622&method=full&siteid=50002&headline=empty-city-office-rented-for--pound-1-1m--name_page.html	Government Office for the West Midlands	Costs
<p>Bute House bill now tops £330,000 More than £330,000 has been spent since 1999 on alterations to the official residence of Scotland's First Minister, according to documents released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. In the last year, the only alterations were to tighten security including £5,000 on bomb-blast film for the windows and £30,000 for CCTV.</p>	1.3.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/archive.cfm?id=225302005	Scottish Executive	Costs

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<p>BBC's big bill for complying with new Act The BBC spent £415,000 responding to Freedom of Information requests in the period between January and July 2005. Officials said the Corporation received a deluge of requests when the Act came into force in January and extra temporary staff had to be hired. A total of 746 requests were answered in the period.</p>	20.9.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/09/20/nbbc20.xml	BBC	Costs
<p>Castle talks bill almost £250,000 Three days of talks aimed at restoring the devolved government in Northern Ireland in September 2004 cost £250,000, according to figures published by the Northern Ireland Office under the FOI Act. The cost of security for the event was not included, with Kent police saying the operation was one of the biggest they had ever undertaken. The Irish Government said it paid £115,360.04, towards staging the event.</p>	1.2.05	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/4226187.stm	Northern Ireland Office	Costs
<p>Your £30m culture bill Liverpool's 2008 European Capital of Culture preparations will cost the City Council nearly £9m in the 2004-5 financial year. Documents disclosed under the FOI Act reveal that the full cost of running the Liverpool Culture Company for 2004-5 is forecast to be £11.8m. With income expected to be £2.9m, the council will be left with a bill of £8.9m.</p>	3.3.05	Liverpool Echo	http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=15253123%26method=full%26siteid=50061-name_page.html	Liverpool City Council	Costs
<p>£100,000 bill for promoting Wales Details of the overseas trips made by staff of some of Wales' quangos have been revealed under the FOI Act. Of the four bodies for which details were obtained, the Welsh Tourist Board spent the most, with more than £100,000 going on travel, hotel and subsistence costs in 2004. Board chairman Philip Evans spent 10 days in Australia to lead a Welsh promotion, the bill for which was almost £8,000. Senior officials from the Sports Council for Wales also visited Australia on a fact-finding mission ahead of the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games and to the Olympics at Athens.</p>	9.7.05	South Wales Echo	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15718957&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=-pound-100-000-bill-for-promoting-wales-name_page.html	Welsh Tourist Board, Sports Council for Wales, Wales Arts International, Education and Learning Wales	Costs

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<p>Cherie under fire over her paid-for armoured car Cherie Blair has become the first Prime Minister's spouse to receive a chauffeur driven car. Mrs Blair was allocated the armoured Vauxhall Omega, estimated to cost £50,000 a year, for personal and official business on security advice.</p>	24.10.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/10/24/nblair124.xml	Cabinet Office	Costs
<p>Fanning the flames Emergency fire cover provided by the army and police authorities during the fire-fighters strike in 2002-3 cost £113.4m. The figures were disclosed under the FOI Act.</p>	22.7.05	The Guardian	http://society.guardian.co.uk/news/story/0,,1533581,00.html	Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly Office of the Deputy Prime Minister)	Costs
<p>The biggest plumbing bill ever? A document produced by the Welsh Assembly Government suggests it would cost £65m to replace corroded copper piping at a hospital in Bangor opened only 21 years ago. The report, disclosed under the FOI Act, details the requests for capital funding made by NHS bodies in Wales. It recommends that all copper pipe-work at Ysbyty Gwynedd be replaced "in order to avoid possible major failures and the consequences". Another huge capital project involves an estimated £86m to be spent on health and safety measures at Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr.</p>	27.5.05	Western Mail	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15563339%26method=full%26siteid=50082-name_page.html	Welsh Assembly Government	Costs
<p>Secret exposed An inquiry by the NSPCC Specialist Investigation Service into an allegation of child harm against a Denbighshire teacher cost the council £5,400. The council has refused to publish the report's contents, but disclosed the cost in response to an FOI request.</p>	30.9.05	Vale Advertiser	http://icnorthwales.icnetwork.co.uk/news/regionalnews/tm_objectid=16192888&method=full&siteid=50142&headline=secret-exposed-name_page.html	Denbighshire Council	Costs

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<p>Town hall trips cost £95,000 Councils in the North-East spent around £95,000 on trips abroad last year. Seven local authorities were asked for details of foreign trips by officers and staff. The highest spending authority was Newcastle City Council which spent £48,500 on 150 trips abroad. Gateshead followed spending more than £27,000, then Durham County Council at £10,000 and South Tyneside at £5,000. Northumberland County Council spent just over £3,000 and North Tyneside less than £2,000. Sunderland City Council had yet to provide any information.</p>	<p>11.10.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16235243%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>North-East councils</p>	<p>Costs</p>
<p>Councillors get on junkets bandwagon Travel expenses for 29 of Scotland's local councils released under the FOI (Scotland) Act, show that almost £350,000 was spent in three years on visits by local councillors. The released figures detail individuals' expenditure in the period 2001-2004.</p>	<p>20.2.05</p>	<p>Scotland on Sunday</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=193362005</p>	<p>Scottish local authorities</p>	<p>Costs</p>
<p>Jetting out to bring in work for the North East Regional development agency One NorthEast has spent nearly £300,000 sending officials abroad in the past five years. Figures obtained using the FOI Act reveal that 111 agency officials made 432 business trips abroad at a total cost of £296,327. Destinations included European capitals, North America, Australia and the Far East. The biggest single bill was £9,635 in 2003 for a trip by one of the agency's employees to Louisville, Kentucky, on behalf of the region's defence industry. In the past five years, the agency claims to have helped create 10,600 jobs through inward investment and to have safeguarded a further 11,912.</p>	<p>8.10.05</p>	<p>The Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16224759%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>One NorthEast</p>	<p>Costs</p>

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<p>Plans for 2,500 homes have cost you £67,000 Development plans for 2,500 houses and a relief road in East Grinstead which failed to gain approval from councillors cost £67,000 to compile. Members of Mid Sussex District Council voted to reject the East Grinstead Strategic Development Area Action Plan - Pre Submission Document and Sustainability Appraisal on October 19 2005. Further work is now being undertaken.</p>	<p>30.11.05</p>	<p>East Grinstead Observer</p>	<p>http://icsurreyonline.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0600eastgrinstead/tm_objectid=16431861&method=full&siteid=50101&headline=plans-for-2-500-homes-have-cost-you--67-000-name_page.html</p>	<p>Mid Sussex District Council</p>	<p>Costs</p>
<p>Libraries hit in vandal attacks More than half of Warwickshire's libraries were vandalised in 2004-5. Of the 29 libraries, 16 suffered at the hands of yobs, who caused damage totalling £13,000. The worst-hit were Nuneaton (£3,148), Lillington (£1,586), Bedworth Heath (£1,501) and Keresley Newland (£1,498).</p>	<p>31.8.05</p>	<p>Coventry Evening Telegraph</p>	<p>http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0150swarksnews/tm_objectid=15915965&method=full&siteid=50003&headline=libraries-hit-in-vandal-attacks-name_page.html</p>	<p>Warwickshire County Council</p>	<p>Costs</p>
<p>Soaring costs of classroom raids Break-ins at Warwickshire schools cost the County Council £66,144 in 2003-4. The figures are contained in a Council report disclosed under the FOI Act. The Nicholas Chamberlaine School in Bedworth was one of the worst hit by thieves who struck six times, four of them in a single week. The burglaries cost more than £12,000 after thieves stole equipment including digital cameras.</p>	<p>11.7.05</p>	<p>Coventry Evening Telegraph</p>	<p>http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/rugby/tm_objectid=15723773%26method=full%26siteid=50003-name_page.html</p>	<p>Warwickshire County Council</p>	<p>Costs</p>
<p>French and Italians in talks to be €12.5bn allies The Ministry of Defence has paid French arms and electronic company Thales £96m for its involvement in a project to build aircraft carriers for the Royal Navy, according to figures released under the FOI Act. BAE who are equal partners in the project have been paid £86m.</p>	<p>3.4.05</p>	<p>The Independent on Sunday</p>	<p>http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news/article9063.ece</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence</p>	<p>Defence</p>

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<p>UK taxpayers spend £195m on fees for aircraft carrier project The project to build two Royal Navy aircraft carriers has cost £195m before any formal contract has been signed, according to a Freedom of Information response. The money was spent on consultants, fees to companies expected to build the ships, and conferences associated with the project. In a related but separate FOI disclosure, a Private Finance Initiative project to supply the RAF with air-to-air refuelling planes has cost £26.25m thus far.</p>	6.3.05	The Independent	http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news/article4845.ece	Ministry of Defence	Defence
<p>MoD dumped munitions in the Irish sea The Ministry of Defence has dumped more than a million tons of munitions into the Irish Sea since the 1920s, according to a disclosure made under the FOI Act. The program of disposal, which included 14,600 tons of phosgene-filled artillery rockets and "small quantities" of radioactive laboratory waste, ended in 1973 after which dumping on the UK continental shelf became illegal.</p>	22.4.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/04/22/nbomb22.xml	Ministry of Defence	Defence
<p>MoD's secret pep pill to keep forces awake The Ministry of Defence has spent almost £300,000 researching the benefits of issuing 'hypnotics and stimulants' to its servicemen and women. According to reports disclosed under the FOI Act, the MoD looked into the effects of amphetamines and a stimulant 'modafinil', which was noted to have 'beneficial effects on performance during prolonged periods of wakefulness' for up to 60 hours.</p>	27.2.05	Scotland on Sunday	http://news.scotsman.com/archive.cfm?id=219912005	Ministry of Defence	Defence

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<p>How Alan Clark's vision for the Forces became a reality The late Alan Clark proposed cuts of £15 billion to the Armed Services in 1989, according to a document released under the FOI Act. The unofficial defence review, carried out when he was Defence Procurement Minister, caused controversy at the time but the full contents have remained classified until now. In his paper, Mr Clark correctly predicted that "the diminution of the historic (Soviet) threat will give rise to vacua and conflict in unpredictable locations around the globe".</p>	2.8.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-2-1717399,00.html	Ministry of Defence	Defence
<p>MoD papers reveal Falklands nuclear fear British commanders in the Falklands war in 1982 were deeply concerned that the Argentines could capture their nuclear weapons, MoD papers reveal. The papers show that the naval taskforce was dispatched in such haste there wasn't time to remove nuclear depth charges carried on 7 Royal Navy ships. Two of the ships, Hermes and Invincible, carried 75% of the navy's entire stockpile of nuclear depth charges. The papers state "weapons might fall into the hands of the Argentines, by salvage, if one of the [Royal Navy] ships had been sunk, stranded or captured".</p>	10.10.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1588442,00.html	Ministry of Defence	Defence
<p>FOI spends £30m on private security The Foreign Office spent £30.5m hiring private security and military companies last year, according to an FOI Act disclosure. The figure represents a rise of £10m from the previous year. The companies undertook work in countries including Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia and China.</p>	27.3.05	The Independent on Sunday	http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news/article8053.ece	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Defence

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<p>Falconer is forced to reveal diary in freedom milestone Lord Falconer, the secretary of state for constitutional affairs, has revealed details of his ministerial diary in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act. However, he refused to give details of meetings between himself and "key stakeholders and policy experts" arguing that disclosure would result in "stakeholders unwilling to enter into discussions...and may lead to greater pressure and increased expectations for a Secretary of State to meet with others". As a result, the list of individuals he has met is largely made up of figures from the legal establishment.</p>	<p>24.7.05</p>	<p>The Observer</p>	<p>http://observer.guardian.co.uk/politics/story/0,,1535266,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Constitutional Affairs</p>	<p>Diaries</p>
<p>Role of PM's envoy to Mideast is revealed The diary of Lord Levy, a long-time representative of Prime Minister Tony Blair, has been disclosed under the FOI Act. It reveals that Levy has visited the leaders of Israel, Syria, Jordan and Egypt, and saw Yasser Arafat 11 times. The diary is the first of a senior official to be released under the FOI Act.</p>	<p>19.2.05</p>	<p>Financial Times</p>	<p>http://news.ft.com/cms/s/5497b26a-821c-11d9-9e19-00000e2511c8.html</p>	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</p>	<p>Diaries</p>
<p>Children aged 13 dealing heroin for their parents Children as young as 13 in Scotland are dealing hard drugs, police records show. The data, supplied by five of Scotland's eight forces under the FOI Act, also indicates increasing drug usage by children. In the Lothians, police caught 13 juveniles - children aged 15 and under - dealing drugs in the first 6 months of 2005. They included a boy and girl, both 13, supplying heroin.</p>	<p>1.8.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=1710062005</p>	<p>Scottish police forces</p>	<p>Drugs</p>

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<p>Children as young as 14 are supplying drugs in capital Statistics disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act reveal that children as young as 14 have been caught supplying drugs in Edinburgh. The total number of arrests of people aged under 16 dealing drugs in Lothian and Borders between April 2002 and March 2005 was 21, with 47 crimes between them. Five of those were arrested and charged in Edinburgh.</p>	<p>27.5.05</p>	<p>Evening News - Edinburgh</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/edinburgh.cfm?id=580852005</p>	<p>Lothian and Borders Police</p>	<p>Drugs</p>
<p>Governor almost quit over Brown's decision Letters detailing how Gordon Brown informed the Bank of England of the plan to transfer banking supervision powers to a new body have been released under the FOI Act. The correspondence suggests that the chancellor originally promised in a letter dated May 6th 1997 to consult the governor of the Bank Sir Edward George, but two weeks later wrote again saying that the intention was to transfer power at the 'earliest opportunity'.</p>	<p>9.2.05</p>	<p>Financial Times</p>	<p>http://news.ft.com/cms/s/c5da0406-7a41-11d9-9b93-00000e2511c8.html</p>	<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Economy</p>
<p>How black gold was hijacked North Sea oil could have made an independent Scotland as prosperous as Switzerland according to secret paper presented to the Cabinet Office in 1975. The paper, by leading Scottish economist Gavin McCrone, predicted that Scotland's currency 'would become the hardest in Europe, with the exception perhaps of the Norwegian Kronor'. The paper viewed as incendiary by the UK Government. Officials demanded it be given 'only a most restricted circulation in the Scottish Office because of the extreme sensitivity of the subject.' Hidden for thirty years, McCrone's analysis has been released under the FOI Act.</p>	<p>9.12.05</p>	<p>Independent</p>			<p>Economy</p>

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<p>Secrets of Black Wednesday Britain's decision to leave the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992 cost the taxpayer £3.3bn, according to documents released under the FOI Act. The disclosure is part of a range of files relating to 'Black Wednesday' that have been released under the FOI Act. The documents also reveal that following the withdrawal Treasury officials decided that should Britain ever consider exchange-rate fixing again, "our monetary policy instruments and institutional structures should be much closer to those of our partners".</p>	<p>10.2.05</p>	<p>Financial Times</p>	<p>http://news.ft.com/cms/s/36403422-7b0f-11d9-a3ea-00000e2511c8.html</p>	<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Economy</p>
<p>Tories missed chance to make Bank independent Documents released under the FOI Act reveal that civil servants advised the Conservative government on four occasions of the possibility of an independent Bank of England. In 1988 senior officials warned that independence would transfer 'a considerable element of the Prime Minister's and the Chancellor's power base', but went on to highlight the potential economic benefits. In 1991, officials suggested there was a case to give the Bank 'unfettered freedom'.</p>	<p>8.3.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/03/08/ntory08.xmlhttp://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,,1432598,00.html</p>	<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Economy</p>
<p>Blair 'exaggerates EU contribution' Britain has been exaggerating its net contribution to the EU by over £500m, according to a Treasury document disclosed under the FOI Act. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have both said Britain's net contribution to the EU in 2003, the latest year for which complete figures are available, was £3.7billion. But the Blair/Brown figure fails to take account of private sector receipts. The Treasury's document, Statement on the 2005 EC Budget, admits to a further £550m which British companies receive direct from Brussels.</p>	<p>28.6.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml;jsessionid=0VGOVF0KDYDCBQFIQMFCM54AVCBQYJVC?xml=/money/2005/06/28/cneu28.xml&secureRefresh=true&_requestid=16274</p>	<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Economy</p>

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<p>No challenge for Bank chief Tony Blair and Gordon Brown did not formally consider other candidates when reappointing Sir Edward George as governor of the Bank of England in 1998, according to documents released under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	9.5.05	Financial Times	http://news.ft.com/cms/s/24ed4cd4-9043-11d9-9a51-00000e2511c8.html	Treasury	Economy
<p>UK has missed chance of dividend Internal Treasury documents on the possibility of a “flat tax” for the UK have been disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act. A flat tax policy could lead to an “overall increase in tax revenue” that would “enable a cut in average taxes and spur further reductions in tax avoidance and evasion....creating a mini economic boom” the documents say. The main argument against the introduction the policy seems to be that it would cost “a lot of money” – specifically that “such a system is tough on the low paid unless you spend a lot of money on generous personal allowances or a very low rate of tax – or both”.</p>	28.8.05	Financial Times	http://news.ft.com/cms/s/3280c930-17ec-11da-a14b-00000e2511c8.html	Treasury	Economy
<p>'Sleight of hand' covered budget cuts Documents disclosed under the FOI Act cast doubt on the Welsh Assembly Government's claim that the decision to make cuts from a budget meant to 'match fund' Objective One European aid was strategic rather than as the result of a budget shortfall. An email dated 4 November 2003 from the director of strategy and communication at the Welsh Tourist Board reveals that the Assembly Government wanted the Tourist Board to apply for an extra £1.7m in direct European funding to make up for an equivalent cut from the Government's 'Pathways to Prosperity' match funding pot.</p>	14.7.05	Western Mail	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/newspolitics/tm_objectid=15732667&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=-sleight-of-hand--covered-budget-cuts-name_page.html	Welsh Assembly Government	Economy

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<p>Woodhead overrode inspectors to fail improving school Former chief inspector of schools Chris Woodhead overruled a unanimous decision by his senior inspectors that a north London comprehensive had passed its inspection, according to a memo disclosed under the FOI Act. Eight years ago an inspection team concluded that Islington Green was not failing, yet Mr Woodhead nevertheless decided to place the school on a list of 265 requiring "special measures".</p>	4.2.05	The Guardian	http://politics.guardian.co.uk/foi/story/0,9061,1406138,00.html	OFSTED	Education
<p>Cut-price deal on offer to controversial academies A controversial sponsor of the Government's academy schools was offered a cut-price deal, documents reveal. Sponsors are supposed to contribute £2m to the starting costs of academies and operate the schools once open. But in a letter dated July 2004, schools minister David Miliband told the Emmanuel Schools Foundation it only had to pay £2m towards each of its first three academies and £1.5m thereafter. The foundation has attracted controversy because of the strong Christian values employed in its schools.</p>	4.10.05	Yorkshire Today	http://www.yorkshiretoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=55&ArticleID=1209733	Department for Education and Skills	Education
<p>Academies 'will create two-tier school system' Ministers proceeded with their plans to expand the number of privately run academies despite warnings that they could fail to meet key goals. A report by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, released under the Freedom of Information Act, suggested that academies could lead to "a two-tier system which results in an increase in stratification of students by social class".</p>	19.2.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1418033,00.html (also 'Ministers ignored critical academy report' 18.2.05)	Department for Education and Skills	Education

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<p>Are city academies really helping the poorest children? The proportion of pupils from the poorest families has fallen at academy schools compared with the "failing" schools they replaced, figures suggest. Overall 45% of children at the predecessor schools had been eligible for free school meals, the standard indicator of deprivation. At the replacement academy schools, which set their own admissions criteria, that figure has fallen to 31%. The figures were obtained partly under the FOI Act and partly in a written Parliamentary answer.</p>	<p>31.10.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://politics.guardian.co.uk/public_services/story/0,11032,1605191,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Education and Skills</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>Minister reduced student targets The government target for university entry was revised downward following concerns about a 'pile-them high' culture and accusations of 'dumbing down'. According to documents released under the FOI Act, in 1999 Downing Street intended to set a target of 50% participation by young people in higher education by 2006/7. However, this was eventually amended to 50% by 2010 amid worries that 'too hasty' an expansion could also prompt elite universities to 'break away from the existing system'.</p>	<p>17.2.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1416259,00.html</p>		<p>Education</p>
<p>LSE has quota for state students The London School of Economics operates a scheme whereby candidates achieving lower-than-necessary grades have their school background considered as a mitigating factor, according to documents released through the FOI Act. The 'quota' system has led to 40 places being set aside for the past five years for pupils from low achieving state-schools. The LSE's head of admissions said "It's difficult to see this as discrimination...forty places represent just six per cent of our home and European intake."</p>	<p>10.3.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>		<p>London School of Economics</p>	<p>Education</p>

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<p>Bristol admission secrets revealed Bristol University has a policy of favouring students from disadvantaged backgrounds, according to documents released under the FOI Act. The papers recommend that admissions tutors make lower offers to disadvantaged students. Bristol has been running the policy since the mid-90s, the documents reveal.</p>	4.2.05	Times Higher Education Supplement	http://www.thes.co.uk/search/story.aspx?story_id=2019273	University of Bristol	Education
<p>Drowning by numbers Eleven universities are being closely monitored by their funding body because of severe financial difficulties. Documents released under the FOI Act by the Higher Education Funding Council for England also show however that no institutions are in the worst category of needing immediate and urgent attention.</p>	19.4.05	The Guardian	http://education.guardian.co.uk/universityfunding/story/0,14337,1462666,00.html	Higher Education Funding Council for England	Education
<p>Focus on basics shakes up schools Of the 2,000 English secondary schools that achieved better GCSE pass rates in 2004 than 2001, 17% did worse in English and maths. Currently, a school's league table position is based on the percentage of pupils who get five or more good GCSE passes in any subject. However, from 2007 the subjects must include maths and English. Using the FOI Act, the BBC obtained data and compared schools on the old and new benchmarks. On the current measure, 102 schools scored 100% in 2004. But on the new benchmark only 65 schools would have scored 100%.</p>	20.10.05	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/4358208.stm	English secondary schools	Education

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<p>New figures expose rise in GCSE success rate The proportion of 15-year-olds achieving five GCSEs at grades A*-C jumped by two per cent to 55.7 per cent this year, the Department for Education and Skills said. However, data obtained under the FOI Act shows that only 44.1 per cent managed five A*-Cs once maths and English were included. The five or more A*-C pass rate looks less even impressive once vocational qualifications are taken out of the calculation. The Government has agreed that GNVQs can equate to four A-C grade GCSE passes. The data shows the GCSE pass rate on its own has remained almost stagnant for the last five years, hovering around 50 per cent.</p>	<p>21.10.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/10/21/nexam21.xml</p>	<p>Department for Education and Skills</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>Schools 'cull pupils to lift A-level rank' Data disclosed by the Department for Education and Skills suggests that some schools may be refusing to take weaker pupils in the sixth form, replacing them with high-flyers from other schools. The data, which covers 2,600 state and independent schools in England, shows that at least 20% of fifth-formers in selective schools did not stay on to do A-levels at the schools that gave them a place at 11 or 13. The figures do not detail exactly why the pupils switched schools at A-level and schools insist there is no policy of "culling" weaker pupils.</p>	<p>14.8.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1734312,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Education and Skills</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>Exam results reveal gender gulf in schools A report showing huge differences in the performance of girls and boys in schools has been disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act. The report breaks down the A-level results of 1,500 schools, both state and independent, by gender. In 71% of the 122 independent schools surveyed, girls gained more A and B grades than boys. Girls achieved more than 10 per cent better results than boys in one in five independent schools. In the 1,132 state schools surveyed, girls got better results in 74% of cases, achieving over 10% better results in 43% of schools.</p>	<p>15.5.05</p>	<p>The Observer</p>	<p>http://observer.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,1484284,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Education and Skills</p>	<p>Education</p>

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<p>'Quarter of adults less literate than an 11-year – old' Only 75% of the adults in Wales are “functionally literate”, according to research for the Welsh Assembly Government released under the Freedom of Information Act. In the survey, functional literacy was measured as equivalent to the level of literacy expected of an 11 year-old.</p>	10.2.05	Western Mail	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/1100education/tm_objectid=15172821&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=-quarter-of-our-adults-less-literate-than--an-11-year-old--name_page.html	Welsh Assembly Government	Education
<p>Revealed: our failing primaries Thousands of primary school pupils in Scotland are failing to achieve a basic grounding in literacy and numeracy, according to data obtained under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The data will, for the first time, allow parents to compare the performance of their local primary school with others across the country.</p>	13.11.05	Sunday Times Scotland	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-1870216,00.html	Scottish councils	Education
<p>Parent power reveals school shame Inspectors reporting on a Greater Manchester school noted that “weak leadership and management” contributed to “alarmingly poor” standards of behaviour and teaching. The documents were originally withheld from parents, who eventually secured their release under the FOI Act. Also cited in the report were dangerous and filthy buildings, vandalism and a high number of supply teachers due to long-term staff absenteeism.</p>	16.3.05	Manchester Evening News		OFSTED	Education
<p>Teachers need to try harder Teaching at a failing school has not caught up with improvements in pupils' behaviour according to an OFSTED monitoring report disclosed under the FOI Act. OSFTED inspectors decided that the Warren School in Chadwell Heath was making “reasonable progress” towards being taken off special measures. But the report states that “In some classes, the teachers have not adapted their planning to take account of the improved behaviour and willingness of the vast majority of pupils to engage with learning.”</p>	17.8.05	Barking and Dagenham Post	http://www.bdpost.co.uk/content/barkinganddagenham/post/news/story.aspx?brand=BDPOnline&category=news&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newsbdp&itemid=WeED17%20Aug%202005%2010%3A48%3A29%3A353	OFSTED	Education

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<p>School sex abuse claims soar Nearly 80 complaints of physical or sexual misconduct were received against teachers in Tyneside, Northumberland and Wearside last year, according to figures released under the FOI Act. Thirty-two of the 77 complaints were referred to the police or social services. However, only one person was dismissed, with five disciplined and three receiving formal warnings. The Crown Prosecution Service prosecuted two teachers, with one acquitted and one trial yet to be heard.</p>	14.3.05	Evening Chronicle - Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=15292343%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html	Department for Education and Skills	Education
<p>Champagne lifestyle of disgraced headteachers The extent of the theft and fraud committed by two disgraced Yorkshire headteachers has been revealed in previously confidential audit reports released under the FOI Act. Hundreds of pounds spent on alcohol, thousands of pounds worth of missing computer equipment, even the use of a school minibus for a private trip to watch Manchester United all feature in a list detailing the misuse of school funds by Howard White and Philip Rodgers. The details uncovered by the council's audit team formed the basis for a police inquiry, which resulted in both men being jailed along with two others – teaching assistant Janet Armeson and builder Philip Wright.</p>	3.10.05	Yorkshire Post	http://www.yorkshiretoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=55&ArticleID=1208924	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Education
<p>New revelations in suspended school head A headteacher in Colchester was rebuked by school governors for expressing his lack of confidence in their vote against a new laptop computer initiative. Minutes released under the FOI Act show that the dispute led to strain within the governing body, and that one governor suggested the head-teacher's comments had been 'embarrassing and hurtful'.</p>	4.4.05	Eastern Daily Press		Philip Morant School, Colchester	Education

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<p>Schools face the final bell Cheshire County Council has released figures showing the number of surplus places in its primary schools. As of January 2005 there were 90 surplus places across 14 primary schools in the area. Worst hit were Dunham Hill, with only 44 of its 88 places filled, and Norley CoE Primary School, with 70 of 100 places taken. The Council is proposing to close Frodsham High and amalgamate the surrounding primary schools to address the problem.</p>	30.9.05	Frodsham and Helsby Chronicle	http://iccheshireonline.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=16192875&method=full&siteid=50020&headline=schools-face-the-final-bell--name_page.html	Cheshire County Council	Education
<p>Where do we go? Four possible sites in Newcastle have been earmarked for a £22m city academy, according to information acquired under the FOI Act. When the project is confirmed parents, pupils and local community members will be asked where they would like to see the school situated from the shortlist of four areas.</p>	15.2.05	Evening Chronicle - Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=15193041%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html	Newcastle City Council	Education
<p>Carlisle exclusions Secondary schools in Carlisle have excluded nearly 3000 pupils for bad behaviour in four years. The figures which cover the period 2000-2004, show that 38 of those were permanent exclusions.</p>	10.6.05	Cumberland News	http://www.cumberland-news.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=252466	Cumbria County Council	Education
<p>Schools exclude 2,000 pupils behaving badly 2,013 children were excluded from schools in Cambridgeshire last year, according to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act. There were four permanent exclusions, with the rest lasting between one and forty-five days.</p>	6.4.05	Cambridge Evening News	http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/articles/2005/04/06/78c1299b-3599-4d11-8981-113c8abe98ca.lpf	Cambridgeshire County Council	Education
<p>Nottinghamshire exclusions Three thousand children were excluded from Nottinghamshire schools in 2004, according to figures released under the FOI Act. One hundred children were permanently excluded and half of the total exclusions were for physical assault.</p>	11.2.05	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/lincolnshire/4256607.stm	Nottinghamshire County Council	Education

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<p>One in 10 pupils is playing truant Almost one in ten pupils at a school in Leicester have been skipping lessons, according to documents released under the FOI Act. Reports dated between June 2004 and January 2005 show that New College had an unauthorised absence rate of 9.4% and attendance was highlighted as a major hurdle by Ofsted inspectors. The school was classed as 'failing' in December 2003.</p>	<p>7.4.05</p>	<p>Leicester Mercury</p>		<p>Leicester City Council</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>Schools' truancy shame revealed 146 schools are being targeted in a crackdown on an estimated 8,000 "serial truants", the Department for Education and Skills has revealed. The Department initially refused to name the schools involved, but disclosed the information in response to an FOI request. Parents of the children will be given 12 weeks to improve attendance or face a fine of up to £2,500 - or even jail.</p>	<p>14.11.05</p>	<p>The Birmingham Post</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/birminghampost/news/tm_objectid=16369154%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Department for Education and Skills</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>University cheats on the rise There were 6,672 incidents of plagiarism and collusion in the 2003/4 academic year figures from half of Britain's universities have revealed. The figures, disclosed under the FOI Act, show that 707 students at Westminster University were found to have copied original work, the highest incidence of plagiarism of the 64 institutions surveyed. No incidents were reported at Oxford or Cambridge.</p>	<p>2.8.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-2-1717187,00.html</p>	<p>Universities</p>	<p>Education</p>

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<p>Why agency lost its funding The Welsh Assembly Government withdrew funding from the Wales Youth Agency because it was failing in its task of supporting youth services, official guidance has revealed. The Welsh Assembly had claimed that the decision was "part of the rationalisation agenda", a push to make public bodies more accountable by absorbing them into the government. But official guidance to Jane Davidson, the minister for education and lifelong learning, suggests that problems at the agency were responsible for the decision. Officials said the agency "has not been able to make the impact it should have." And they concluded that the length of time needed to turn the agency around made it "inadvisable to continue grant funding the organisation in the medium and long term".</p>	<p>13.7.05</p>	<p>Young People Now</p>	<p>http://www.ypnmagazine.com/news/index.cfm?fuseaction=full_news&ID=7779</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly Government</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>Exposed: truth over free breakfasts Documents disclosed under the FOI Act indicate that the Welsh Assembly Government's policy of free breakfasts "on a universal basis" for primary school pupils was based on an assumed take-up rate of just 11%. The documents also show confusion among policy-makers over the scheme's cost.</p>	<p>19.1.05</p>	<p>Western Mail</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/1100education/tm_objectid=15091313&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=exposed--truth-over-free-breakfasts-name_page.html</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly Government</p>	<p>Education</p>
<p>Election officials warned ministers of post vote flaws Ministers were warned by election officials of a potential postal-vote scandal shortly before local polls that sparked claims of stolen votes. According to papers released under the FOI Act, a leading returns officer wrote in September 2003 to the local government minister arguing that 'a major scandal could bring representative democracy into disrepute'. Civil servants also warned that "postal voting on demand is seen to be open to greater abuse than previously".</p>	<p>7.3.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-2-1514674,00.html</p>	<p>Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Department for Communities and Local Government)</p>	<p>Elections</p>

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<p>Postal voters left out in the cold Around 40 people in Coventry were unable to vote in the 2005 general election because their postal votes did not arrive, Coventry City Council has revealed. In response to a request under the FOI Act, the Council said 44 people turned up at polling stations on 5 May claiming they had not received the form. They were then unable to vote in person. Duplicate postal vote packs can be issued up to 5pm the day before the election. A total of 16 postal vote forms were reissued by the Council, although it received a further 38 complaints from people saying they had not received theirs.</p>	<p>26.7.05</p>	<p>Coventry Evening Telegraph</p>	<p>http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15782389%26method=full%26siteid=50003-name_page.html</p>	<p>Coventry City Council</p>	<p>Elections</p>
<p>Election: police fear new fraud Forty-four phoney postal votes were cast in one ward in Reading during recent council elections according to information obtained by the Reading Evening Post. Commenting on the figures, the detective investigating the case said: "My personal fear is that as a result of there being no prosecution case, the perpetrators of this fraud will confidently enter the next election campaign with even more vigour and a feeling of untouchability."</p>	<p>18.4.05</p>	<p>Reading Evening Post</p>		<p>Electoral Commission</p>	<p>Elections</p>
<p>Uncovered survey results prove good news for council A staff survey at from Darlington Borough Council released under the FOI Act has revealed positive morale amongst council workers. Seventy-five per cent of employees believe the council is a good organisation to work for, whilst 80 per cent say the council is committed to delivering a better service. However, almost 12 per cent of staff do not think that they are treated fairly at work and a total of 17 per cent said they didn't feel motivated.</p>	<p>28.2.05</p>	<p>Darlington & Stockton Times?</p>	<p>http://www.thisisthenortheast.co.uk/the_north_east/archive/2005/02/28/Ab0919.daby.html</p>	<p>Darlington Borough Council</p>	<p>Employment</p>

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<p>Council minorities 'more likely to be sacked' Ethnic minority council employees in Manchester are more likely to be sacked or suspended figures disclosed under the FOI Act suggest. Of the 31 staff dismissed in 2004, 11 (35%) were non-white, even though black and minority ethnic (BME) workers made up just 13.3% of the workforce. The proportion of BME workers suspended of all suspensions was 19% in 2004, 23.9% 2003, 22.5% in 2002 and 22.3% in 2001.</p>	<p>30.12.05</p>	<p>Manchester Evening News</p>	<p>http://www.manchesteronline.co.uk/men/news/s/194/194315_council_minorities_more_likely_to_be_sacked.html</p>	<p>Manchester City Council</p>	<p>Employment</p>
<p>Glasgow was 'political pawn' in Whitehall plan A bid to attract European Commission jobs to Glasgow was sacrificed to the UK government's priority of locating the European police centre in Hampshire, internal documents show. On August 8, 2001, Derek Willis wrote to David Hart a civil service colleague in the executive's transport department saying, "It is our understanding that securing the European Maritime Safety Agency for the UK is not the main objective. The preferred scenario seems to be to attract the police training college to a location in England." He added "Any bid for the EMSA would not therefore proceed in the hope that it could be won, but rather so that it could be tactically withdrawn later to boost the chances of getting the police college."</p>	<p>10.10.05</p>	<p>The Herald</p>	<p>http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/48533.html</p>		<p>Employment</p>
<p>Feuds and turf wars put Fresh Talent plan in jeopardy Implementation of the Fresh Talent Initiative, Jack McConnell's flagship scheme to attract migrants to Scotland, is being undermined by feuding agencies, poor communication and turf wars, documents show. The rows were revealed in a dossier of files released under freedom of information legislation by the British Council, a key player in the drive to attract Fresh Talent to Scotland.</p>	<p>30.10.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Herald</p>	<p>http://www.sundayherald.com/52595</p>	<p>British Council</p>	<p>Employment</p>

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<p>Does your cash deliver the jobs they promised? Regional development agency One NorthEast created or safeguarded 14,518 jobs during 2003-4, according to figures released under the FOI Act. That number is 3,000 more than its target for the year, however the agency can only give a breakdown for 3,980 of the jobs as the partnerships responsible for distributing the cash are not required to give complete details of which firms benefited when reporting back to One NorthEast.</p>	<p>26.4.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Edinburgh</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=15446161%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>One NorthEast</p>	<p>Employment</p>
<p>Criticised meat firm has had £6m grants A controversial meat-processing company received more than £6.5m in 'Regional Selective Assistance' grants in 1996, according to a response under the Freedom of Information Act. The money helped fund a project aimed at creating over 600 jobs at St Merryn Meat Company in Merthyr Tydfil. In 2003, the firm was criticised for employing Portuguese workers with government grants, but the Welsh Assembly's response stated "we are fully satisfied with the explanations provided by the company" that "overseas workers are employed...following difficulties...recruiting employees locally".</p>	<p>26.2.05</p>	<p>Western Mail</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15233584&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=criticised-meat-firm-has-had--pound-6m-grants-name_page.html</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly Government</p>	<p>Employment</p>
<p>IT staffing: onshore offshoring uncovered in the UK Evidence of onshore offshoring, the name given in the US to the practice of bringing in skilled but comparatively more affordable workers from overseas, has been uncovered in the UK using the FOI Act. A technology staffing group found that 21,000 IT workers were given work permits to stay and work in the UK in the 10 months from August 2004 to May 2005.</p>	<p>24.11.05</p>	<p>Computer Business Review</p>	<p>http://www.cbronline.com/article_feature.asp?guid=DDE14137-AF21-40D1-8B66-E4AB5C0AEE5C</p>	<p>Home Office</p>	<p>Employment</p>

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<p>Executions are back at Tower with secret cull to prevent a legendary fall A cull of carrion crows surrounding the Tower of London takes place every Sunday in an attempt to protect the prized set of ravens that live there, according to a response to an FOI request. The raven master shoots crows that seem ill and those deemed to be the leading 'alpha' birds competing with the ravens for food. Legend holds that the presence of ravens at the Tower guarantees the continuation of the monarchy.</p>	28.2.05	The Independent	http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/tis_britain/article13267.ece	Historic Royal Palaces Trust	Environment
<p>Anger over Executive's 'outrageous' bid to gag watchdog Scotland's environment watchdog reacted furiously to attempts at preventing him criticising the Scottish Executive, documents show. The row followed a newspaper article in which the chief executive of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Campbell Gemmell suggested that the Executive had not provided SEPA with enough resources. This prompted a civil servant to suggest SEPA "clear any line" with him, to which Gemmell responded "it is clear, or at least it seems the inference I should draw is...that my public statements on these matters should also be 'agreed in advance'". He added: "I find this somewhere between difficult and wholly unacceptable."</p>	15.5.05	The Sunday Herald	http://www.sundayherald.com/49701		Environment
<p>Fury at wind farms finally fuels a review Rapid growth in the number of wind farm sites in Scotland could damage wildlife and rural landscapes. Documents released under the FOI (Scotland) Act show Scottish National Heritage has expressed 'concern' that public subsidies for developers have led to the 'unplanned proliferation of exploration of wind farm sites'.</p>	24.4.05	Scotland on Sunday	http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=436522005		Environment

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<p>Ministers step in to bitter Skye wind farm dispute Applications for two wind farms on the Isle of Skye and neighbouring Ben Atekil are to be called in for further consideration by the Scottish Executive after being approved by councillors amid concern that they could threaten rare wildlife. Dr Ian Bainbridge, the Executive's chief ecological adviser told colleagues he had "concerns about the possible effect on golden eagles". He added "It may be sensible to call in both cases and give more consideration to the potential effects of both."</p>	<p>30.10.05</p>	<p>Sunday Times Scotland</p>		<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Environment</p>
<p>Ministers secretly back controversial Fife oil plan Environmental impact assessments carried out on a controversial scheme to transfer millions of tonnes of Russian crude oil between tankers in the Firth of Forth, were flawed. An official from the Environment and Rural Affairs Department said reports for Melbourne Marine Services, the company behind the proposal, contained "numerous errors".</p>	<p>4.9.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Herald</p>	<p>http://www.sundayherald.com/51591</p>		<p>Environment</p>
<p>Scotland's secret environmental shame revealed The Scottish Executive is being investigated by the European Commission for 32 alleged breaches of environmental protection laws, according to documents released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The charges relate to the implementation of environmental policy. The list of 'infraction cases' includes accusations that ministers are failing to protect wildlife, failing to recycle enough waste and not controlling pollution.</p>	<p>27.2.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Herald</p>	<p>http://www.sundayherald.com/48024</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Environment</p>

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<p>Homes to die for Residents' group Save the Spodden Valley used the Freedom of Information Act to prove the presence of asbestos in woods close to where developers proposed to build 650 homes. Spodden Valley in Rochdale was the site of the world's biggest asbestos textile plant, Turner & Newall, which closed in 1994. Last year, current owners MMC Estates and brownfield developers Countryside Properties, submitted a planning application to build homes on the site. The application summary claimed: "of particular note is the absence of any asbestos contamination".</p>	<p>28.9.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://society.guardian.co.uk/societyguardian/story/0,,1579357,00.html</p>	<p>Health and Safety Executive, Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council</p>	<p>Environment</p>
<p>Fly-tipping bill tops £3 million There have been 4,000 incidents of illegal dumping in Doncaster in six months. The cost of removing the dumped material now tops more than £3 million a year. Most of the dumped waste is described as "household" and includes DIY materials, furniture and electrical goods but asbestos, animal parts and syringes have also been found.</p>	<p>1.9.05</p>	<p>Doncaster Today</p>	<p>http://www.doncastertoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=786&ArticleID=1132292</p>	<p>Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council</p>	<p>Environment</p>
<p>Councils 'unaware' of space loss Most Scottish councils do not know how much open space is being lost to public private partnership school developments, it has emerged. Councils were advised to survey and audit their open space by Scottish ministers in 2003. However, responses to FOI requests have revealed that most councils do not keep figures on the areas of playing fields, parklands and open space being lost.</p>	<p>4.11.05</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/4404822.stm</p>	<p>Scottish councils</p>	<p>Environment</p>
<p>Scottish Executive costs hit £150m The Scottish Executive has spent almost £150 million on travel, hospitality and office costs in the 6 years since devolution. The figures, disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act, show that nearly £34m has been spent by ministers, special advisers and civil servants on travel, and more than £3m on hospitality since 1999. The cost of office accommodation - including utility costs, rates, maintenance and repairs - was more than £111m.</p>	<p>16.9.05</p>	<p>Evening News - Edinburgh</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=1947822005</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Expenses</p>

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<p>MSPs run up £500,000 bill on hotels since devolution Figures obtained under the FOI (Scotland) Act reveal that MSPs have claimed £500,000 in hotel expenses since devolution. The figures also reveal the amount claimed for taxis (£193,865), rail fares (£359,276) and telephone calls from home (£187,149).</p>	24.4.05	The Sunday Times		Scottish Parliament	Expenses
<p>MSPs claim nearly £52k in taxis The amount MSPs spend on taxis has doubled since the first year of the Scottish Parliament figures reveal. Last year, MSPs claimed £51,716.97 to cover their taxi fares, compared to £25,514.38 in 1999. Tory leader David McLetchie has racked up the largest bill, claiming £11,565.19 over the six years, an average of nearly £2,000 a year.</p>	30.9.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/latest.cfm?id=2019452005	Scottish Parliament	Expenses
<p>McLetchie finally quits over taxi tow David McLetchie has resigned as the Scottish Conservative Party leader following the controversy over his taxi expenses. McLetchie had been under pressure since February 2005 when details of his travel claims were requested under the FOI (Scotland) Act. On 21 April, the Scottish Parliament provided copies of claims totalling £10,448 but blacked out many of the destinations, claiming Mr McLetchie's safety would be compromised. But on 7 October the Scottish Information Commissioner Kevin Dunion ordered the destinations to be disclosed. It then emerged that Mr McLetchie had already paid refunded over £250 in travel claims for party political events. He had also claimed for trips to the home of Lady Sian Biddulph, a Tory activist.</p>	19.6.05	Scotland on Sunday	http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=674542005	Scottish Parliament	Expenses

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<p>MSPs expense claims to be posted online Invoices and receipts for all MSPs' expenses claims will be published on the Internet in the future, George Reid Holyrood's Presiding Officer has announced. Mr Reid said the current system of disclosing total figures annually was not adequate to meet the demands of the FOI (Scotland) Act. The move to make expenses more open and accountable follows the resignation of the Scottish Conservative leader David McLetchie, over allegations he used taxpayers' money to fund taxi journeys for personal or party political business.</p>	2.11.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=2180382005	Scottish Parliament	Expenses
<p>MPs' expenses claims now average £122,000 MPs claimed £81 million in expenses in 2004, 3.8% more than the previous year, figures released in response to the FOI Act show. On average each MP claimed £122,677 in allowances to cover travel, accommodation, staff and office costs.</p>	27.10.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,17129-1845782,00.html	House of Commons	Expenses
<p>AMs allowances revealed The National Assembly for Wales has disclosed details of allowance and expense claims made by Assembly Members in its first 3 years in response to an FOI request. Previously, most AM's had provided the details voluntarily, but some had refused. One of those was Deputy Presiding Officer Dr John Marek. The figures show that in 2001-2 Dr Marek claimed £8,475 in office costs, £10,500 in additional costs including housing, £44,307 in staff salaries, £1,628 in mileage and £2,022 in other travel claim claims.</p>	7.7.05	South Wales Echo	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/capitalcity/news/tm_objectid=15710295&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=ams-allowances-revealed-name_page.html	National Assembly for Wales	Expenses
<p>Ken Livingstone expenses Travel expenses for the Mayor of London Ken Livingstone, released under the Freedom of Information Act, show that in three months he claimed for eight cab journeys, at a cost of £172. All were late-night trips to his Cricklewood home from central London.</p>	29.3.05	The Independent		Greater London Authority	Expenses

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<p>Taxpayers' bill for top cop's roving Expenses for the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police have been disclosed under the FOI Act. Paul Scott-Lee spent over £2,000 flying to America to attend policing conferences in May and October 2003, and he was paid £40,838 in relocation costs when he moved to the region from his job at Suffolk Police in September 2002. He has spent £4,601 on hotels and restaurants since 2003.</p>	18.2.05	Coventry Evening Telegraph	http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15205355%26method=full%26siteid=50003-name_page.html	West Midlands Police	Expenses
<p>Police chief's expenses go public The Chief Constable of Suffolk, Alistair McWhirter, has made his expenses public as part of the police force's drive to be more open in response to the Freedom of Information Act. The figures have been available online since January, less than a month after the Act came into force, with a Suffolk Police spokesman saying the move was beneficial for "openness and the public confidence in the police."</p>	27.1.05	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/suffolk/4213215.stm	Suffolk Constabulary	Expenses
<p>Police chief's £7,100 expenses bill Cumbria's Chief Constable Michael Baxter claimed £7,100 in expenses in 2004, according to files published under the FOI Act. A large portion of that figure, £3,454, was for accommodation covering trips to conferences and meetings.</p>	9.3.05	News and Star - Cumbria	http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=187710	Cumbria Police	Expenses
<p>Police chief's moving bill £12,000 Chief Constable Barbara Wilding received more than £12,000 to meet the cost of her move to South Wales, it has been revealed. Miss Wilding took over as Chief Constable in January 2004, moving from the Metropolitan Police. During 2004, Miss Wilding claimed £12,481 in removal costs, £2,059 in accommodation and meals and £288 in travel.</p>	15.4.05	South Wales Echo	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15406441%26method=full%26siteid=50082-name_page.html	South Wales Police	Expenses

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<p>Council spends £26,000 on taxis Coventry City Council spent nearly £26,000 on taxi fares in the past year, averaging more than £2,000 a month. Figures obtained under the FOI Act reveal that the highest single fare was a £40 round-trip to Birmingham from Coventry city centre, and that the most spent in a single month was £4,023. Staff are encouraged by the council to take a taxi only if it is the 'best and only option'.</p>	<p>9.6.05</p>	<p>Coventry Evening Telegraph</p>	<p>http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15611108%26method=full%26siteid=50003-name_page.html</p>	<p>Coventry City Council</p>	<p>Expenses</p>
<p>Outrage over council's taxi bill of £71,000 East Lothian Council spent £71,000 on taxis over the past financial year. A spokesman for the council said that "not all councillors are drivers and...when public transport...(is) not available it is more economical and efficient to use taxis".</p>	<p>13.6.05</p>	<p>Evening News - Edinburgh</p>		<p>East Lothian District Council</p>	<p>Expenses</p>
<p>Beeb cab bill fury BBC Wales has spent £616,000 on taxis in the last three years, according to figures obtained under the FOI Act. The figures show that BBC Wales spent £192,000 on taxis for staff and guests in 2002/3, £188,000 the following year and £236,000 in 2004/5. Under BBC rules, staff living within a 30-mile radius of their workplace are entitled to cabs if they start before 6.30am or finish after 10.45pm.</p>	<p>6.11.05</p>	<p>Wales on Sunday</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=16338125&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=beeb-cab-bill-fury-name_page.html</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>Expenses</p>
<p>Agency chief Laird spent £260 on a taxi The cost of Lord Laird's official taxi journeys whilst chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency have been disclosed following a FOI request. The bills from 2000 and 2001 include fares of £240 and £260 for Belfast to Dublin return trips and £272.50 for a Co Derry journey. In total, £2,505 was spent over a 10 month period. The peer defended some of his taxi use on personal security grounds, linked to his practice of wearing a kilt for functions. "Am I going to turn up somewhere, get out of a car and walk half a mile to a function wearing a kilt? That would be drawing attention to me," he said. Lord Laird resigned as Ulster-Scots Agency chairman in 2004.</p>	<p>7.2.05</p>	<p>Belfast Telegraph</p>		<p>Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure</p>	<p>Expenses</p>

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<p>Councillor who ate for free in canteen to pay money back A Glasgow councillor who claimed expenses for lunches despite eating for free in the council's canteen, has agreed to pay the money back. Council records obtained under the FOI Act show that Gary Gray had lunch in a special City Chambers' buffet on at least seven occasions when he also claimed a lunch allowance of £6.99. The discrepancies were revealed when the Mr Gray's expense forms were cross-referenced with records showing the number of times he had entertained visitors in the councillors' buffet.</p>	<p>29.8.05</p>	<p>Evening Times - Edinburgh</p>	<p>http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/hi/news/5042826.html</p>	<p>Glasgow City Council</p>	<p>Expenses</p>
<p>Row brewing over council expenses Expenses figures for members of Castlereagh Borough Council have been obtained under the FOI Act. Alliance councillor Michael Long claimed he and his colleagues received an average of £21,555 in total over the past four years, compared to £28,504 for Democratic Unionist representatives and £29,300 for Ulster Unionists.</p>	<p>16.3.05</p>	<p>Belfast Telegraph</p>		<p>Castlereagh Borough Council</p>	<p>Expenses</p>
<p>Who's who in council's illegal payments row Cardiff council has disclosed the names of 92 councillors, former members and chief officers who have been sent letters over the alleged unlawful payment of allowances. The list, released under the FOI Act, shows that the recipients were asked a series of question including whether the money they received had been spent or invested, and whether they would be willing to pay back any of the money voluntarily. The moves follow an investigation by a District Auditor into the legality of certain allowance payments.</p>	<p>24.6.05</p>	<p>South Wales Echo</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15662847%26method=full%26siteid=50082-name_page.html</p>	<p>Cardiff Council</p>	<p>Expenses</p>

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<p>Ulster-Scots Agency cash rap revealed The scale of past cash control failings at the Ulster-Scots Agency has been revealed in a document obtained under the FOI Act. A 2001 internal audit concluded that the cross-border body had been spending "with no apparent regard to the fact that public monies are involved". It stated that government investigators were seriously concerned about a number of issues, including hospitality spending, credit card use and travel expenses. The Agency was established in late 1999 to promote Ulster-Scots language and culture.</p>	<p>10.3.05</p>	<p>Belfast Telegraph</p>		<p>Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (NI)</p>	<p>Expenses</p>
<p>The strange tale of the huge expenses bill, the pension application and the disappearing MSP Invoices for travel expenses claimed by the former MSP Keith Raffan have been disclosed in response to a FOI request. In December 2004 the Scottish Parliament revealed the Lib Dem MSP had claimed an incredible £41,154.64 in travel costs for one year. The released invoices show that he claimed for travel in Scotland whilst on a two-day break on the Isle of Man. He also claimed for round trips between Edinburgh and Dunfermline and between Edinburgh and St Andrews on the same day that he flew to Germany on a VIP trip. Raffan resigned as an MSP in January 2005.</p>	<p>18.9.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Herald</p>	<p>http://www.sundayherald.com/51724</p>	<p>Scottish Parliament</p>	<p>Expenses</p>

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<p>Jackson courts questions on travel expenses An MSP charged taxpayers for travel to the Scottish Parliament on the same days that he earned hundreds of pounds in legal aid as a top QC. Documents obtained under the FOI (Scotland) Act show that Gordon Jackson billed the Parliament for travel from Glasgow to Edinburgh on nine occasions when he'd been in court. On two of those occasions, Jackson - who earns £264,000 a year in legal aid plus a £50,000 MSP's salary - is recorded as having missed parliamentary committee meetings. On a third occasion, the parliament was not in session, although Jackson claims he went to his parliamentary office, which would entitle him to claims expenses.</p>	<p>24.4.05</p>	<p>Scotland on Sunday</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=436472005</p>	<p>Scottish Parliament</p>	<p>Expenses</p>
<p>Revealed: the MSPs' houses we paid for Ten ministers in the Scottish Executive are among more than 40 MSPs who claim an allowance to help pay the mortgage on their Edinburgh homes. MSPs who live too far from Edinburgh to commute are entitled to claim an accommodation allowance of up to £10,600 a year which they can use to pay for hotels, rent flats or pay the interest on a mortgage. In response to an FOI request, the Scottish Parliament has published a list of politicians who have bought property with the allowance. A total of 41 current MSPs and 7 former MSPs have claimed for mortgages since the scheme started in 1999.</p>	<p>4.6.05</p>	<p>Evening News - Edinburgh</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=613352005</p>	<p>Scottish Parliament</p>	<p>Expenses</p>

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<p>Yes, minister, your lunch did cost £426 The cost of some Scottish ministers' lunch dates have been released in response to an FOI request. When Jack McConnell met Gavin McCrone and officials for dinner during his time as education minister in 2000, the Carlton Hotel in Edinburgh presented him with a bill for £426.60. Meanwhile, the communities minister Margaret Curran last year lodged expenses for £285 for a meal at the Glasgow Hilton. However, when the then First Minister, Henry McLeish, met Cardinal Thomas Winning, the then head of the Catholic Church in Scotland, for lunch at the Bonham Hotel in 2000, he registered expenses for a very reasonable £25.50.</p>	<p>30.3.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=334542005</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Expenses</p>
<p>School meal link to CJD Three victims of CJD all ate the same beef as part of their school dinners in the late 80s and early 90s, according to a report published under the FOI Act. Two of the victims attended the same school whilst the third went to a different school that sourced its beef from the same abattoir. The report by the National Public Health Service for Wales suggests that "there is no evidence that unfit meat was supplied directly to schools...but...alleged irregularities in slaughterhouse practice may have resulted in higher than average levels of BSE entering the...food supply".</p>	<p>4.3.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://education.guardian.co.uk/schools/story/0,,1430618,00.html</p>	<p>Public Health Service for Wales</p>	<p>Food Safety</p>
<p>Dirt, droppings and decay: the state of many kitchens The extent of decay and dirtiness in many school kitchens has emerged from a survey of more than 200 local authorities' food safety inspection reports. While in some areas inspectors found standards being met, in others faults ranged from staff ignorant of basic hygiene or contracted for so few hours they had no time to clean properly, to out-of-date food, dirty and greasy equipment, and mouldy and crumbling walls. Some schools have been threatened with legal action to improve their kitchens.</p>	<p>14.9.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1569459,00.html</p>	<p>Local authorities</p>	<p>Food safety</p>

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<p>Hundreds of school canteens 'dangerous and filthy' Local authority inspectors found hundreds of breaches of hygiene laws in school kitchens across Scotland, according to reports released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. Incidents included mice found in the kitchens of four schools in West Dunbartonshire between 2002 and 2004 and ants and fungus gnats discovered in several kitchens. Other examples included minced beef being stored beside prepared salad and raw sausages stored next to baked goods.</p>	<p>27.3.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-1506-1538606,00.html</p>	<p>Scottish local authorities</p>	<p>Food safety</p>
<p>Hospital food served up in 'dangerous conditions' Health inspectors found dirty and unsanitary conditions in hospital kitchens across Scotland. Local authority reports, disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act, list infestations of cockroaches, mice and insects, out-of-date food and inappropriate food storage as some of the serious shortcomings discovered. One report for a hospital in Paisley described as "incredible" the fact that fridge and freezer units had remained broken for six weeks.</p>	<p>29.5.05</p>	<p>Sunday Times - Scotland</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-1632706,00.html</p>	<p>Scottish local authorities</p>	<p>Food safety</p>
<p>Turkey Twizzlers Freeman Hospital in Tyneside reignited controversy by serving Turkey Twizzlers to sick children. The Twizzlers were banished to the swill bin during chef Jamie Oliver's TV series on school dinners. Details of the hospitals menus were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	<p>19.4.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-8247-1573606,00.html</p>	<p>Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust</p>	<p>Food safety</p>

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<p>'Baked beetle' among hygiene breaches revealed at fast-food chains Health officials described some outlets from Britain's largest fast-food chains as "extremely poor" and "totally unacceptable" last year. One hundred and three warning letters, released by 27 councils were sent to outlets of Burger King, McDonalds, KFC and Domino's detailing recommended and legally necessary changes to food hygiene practices. One report revealed that a beetle had been baked into a Domino's pizza in Beeston, Nottingham. At a McDonald's in Cheltenham the inspector noted "debris and water beneath the dishwashing machine were providing ideal conditions for flies to breed."</p>	<p>15.5.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>		<p>Various local authorities</p>	<p>Food safety</p>
<p>Food labels of confusion at Tesco Records from Hertfordshire Trading Standards show cases of suspected mislabelling of goods in Tesco stores. Research released under the FOI Act reveals traces of pork found in a 500g pack of Tesco frozen lamb mince, and disparities for some goods between the information given on labels and the test results.</p>	<p>27.2.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1502857,00.html</p>	<p>Hertfordshire County Council</p>	<p>Food safety</p>
<p>Gate gourmet rapped over hygiene Gate Gourmet the airline catering company at the centre of industrial action affecting British Airways flights in August 2005, was found in breach of food safety laws. An inspector who visited the company's Heathrow South site in January 2005 found several problems with the premises' state of repair, including a mouldy ceiling panel, a burst water pipe, a jammed door and defective flooring. An inspection of the West site in May 2005 found that staff weren't monitoring temperature controls and it was unclear how long meals were left outside cold storage.</p>	<p>27.9.05</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/4284116.stm</p>	<p>London Borough of Hillingdon</p>	<p>Food safety</p>

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<p>Cruise firms sail into health storm Inspections of cruise ships docking at UK ports have found poor hygiene and numerous health hazards, according to reports disclosed under the FOI Act. One of the most shocking findings was on board P&O Cruises' £200 million liner Aurora. In May 2004, inspectors found veal thawing that was ten months out of date along with some cheese and a frozen goose of uncertain vintage. In October 2003, 430 passengers were struck down by the Norovirus stomach bug, that hit the Aurora en route from Southampton to the Mediterranean.</p>	<p>1.9.09</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/uk.cfm?id=1873152005</p>	<p>Port authorities</p>	<p>Food safety</p>
<p>Will you get food poisoning if you eat all the pies? Health inspectors found 443 breaches of food safety rules at major sports stadiums in the North-East over the past three years. Reports released under the FOI Act reveal food being stored four months past its best-before date and raw chicken leaking on to kitchen benches. One hundred and fifty five breaches were noted at Newcastle United's football ground St. James's Park.</p>	<p>26.3.05</p>	<p>The Journal - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/thejournal/thejournal/tm_objectid=15340324%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>North East local authorities</p>	<p>Food safety</p>
<p>I in 3 Carlisle restaurants fail hygiene inspection One in three of Carlisle's restaurants fail to meet food hygiene standards, according to documents released under the FOI Act. Stored mouldy food, dirty equipment and inadequate staff training were some of the problems found by inspectors. Of 64 premises inspected between Oct 2004 and January 2005, 18 had serious problems that required action. Only two were found to have no problems.</p>	<p>21.3.05</p>	<p>News and Star - Carlisle</p>	<p>http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=191927</p>	<p>Carlisle City Council</p>	<p>Food safety</p>

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<p>Restaurants' dirty secrets are revealed Environmental health inspectors gave critical verdicts on some of Edinburgh's top restaurants according to documents released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The kitchen in one restaurant was described in 2004 as 'filthy and in need of a thorough clean', whilst mouse droppings were discovered in another award-winning restaurant, prompting inspectors to argue that there was 'no evidence that steps had been taken to identify food hazards and implement the necessary controls and monitoring procedures.'</p>	6.3.05	The Sunday Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/news/paper/0,,176-1513246,00.html	City of Edinburgh Council	Food safety
<p>Council plans 'safety guide' to eating out Belfast City Council has decided to publish details of food safety inspections at restaurants on its website. The decision follows disclosure under the FOI Act of the names of food outlets in the city that have received Category A risk classification. Drew McClenaghan, principal environmental officer, said: "The decision in principle - subject to legal advice - has been taken to publish all inspection results on the website to inform the general public of conditions found in food premises, so that they can then make informed choices."</p>	30.9.05	Belfast Telegraph	http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/story.jsp?story=663404	Belfast City Council	Food safety
<p>Food hygiene and safety reports go on internet Food safety and hygiene reports on restaurants and food outlets in Glasgow have been posted on the city council's website. The reports, which allow diners to check on cleanliness, cooking methods, staff training and equipment maintenance, have been published in response to demand under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	29.8.05	The Herald	http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/45874.html	Glasgow City Council	Food safety
<p>Revealed: Public fears over Big Lukes' food Complaints made to Carlisle City Council about Big Lukes' restaurant included details of "funny" tasting food with an "unusual odour" that made the complainant ill, according to files released under the FOI Act. When hygiene officers went to follow up the alleged problems, they found the premises had closed only three months after opening.</p>	2.3.05	News and Star - Cumbria	http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=185701	Carlisle City Council	Food safety

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<p>Day the Fat Duck failed to impress Heston Blumenthal's Fat Duck restaurant, once voted best in the world, failed to impress council health inspectors. "Three out of four samples were found to be unsatisfactory", Wendy Foster the food and safety officer wrote on February 2004. Test reports showed that the foie gras had "unsatisfactory" levels of "enterobacteriaceae and aerobic colony counts". There were also "borderline" levels of listeria. A piece of belly pork tested "borderline" for staphylococcus aureus. And the ice cream had an "unsatisfactory aerobic colony count and coliform levels". Mr Blumenthal promptly hired an independent food safety consultant. The pork belly and ice-cream passed when re-tested.</p>	<p>2.5.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1474656,00.html</p>	<p>Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead</p>	<p>Food safety</p>
<p>Filthy A Tyneside hotel has been visited by environmental health officers 13 times in the last year, documents obtained under the FOI Act show. One report of a complaint lodged by a group of mothers and toddlers who had stayed at the hotel states "They were generally disgusted at the cleanliness - in the restaurant butter on the floor and mice nibbling, high chairs not cleaned from one meal to the next, mice droppings in the rooms." In September 2005, the Council issued four improvement notices under the Food Safety Act warning the hotel to shape up or face being closed down. A fifth notice was issued under the Health and Safety at Work Act.</p>	<p>29.10.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16309080%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>North Tyneside Council</p>	<p>Food safety</p>
<p>Courts told: stand by for influx of ban-defying hunters The Lord Chancellor Lord Falconer wrote to all court officers in England and Wales alerting them to the potential for a substantially increased workload following the introduction of the ban on fox hunting. The letter, released under the Freedom of Information Act, warns of an expected "influx of cases" in the days following the ban's introduction, stressing the need for a "careful watch" about possible abuses of the new law.</p>	<p>13.2.05</p>	<p>The Independent on Sunday</p>		<p>Department for Constitutional Affairs</p>	<p>Fox hunting</p>

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<p>Hoon's costly dilemma: how to pay for training exercises The Ministry of Defence has drawn up a detailed study into the "formalisation" of agreements to allow the army to train on private land, according to documents obtained under the FOI Act. The move follows concerns about a proposed protest by landowners upset by the ban on fox hunting, which may result in the withdrawal of permission to use of land for army training.</p>	30.3.05	The Independent		Ministry of Defence	Fox hunting
<p>Mandarins on the menu at the Straws' cosy dinner Details of people entertained by the Foreign Secretary Jack Straw at his official homes have been released under the FOI Act. They include his son William, now a fast-track civil servant and Treasury press officer, who was guest at 1 Carlton Gardens on 3 July 2002. Other guests included Sir David Omand, permanent secretary at the Cabinet Office and Sir David Manning, now British ambassador to Washington but then the Prime Minister's adviser on foreign policy.</p>	26.6.05	The Observer	http://observer.guardian.co.uk/politics/story/0,,1514870,00.html	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Fruit & vegetables
<p>Mandarins started a title fight after first minister quit Following Henry McLeish's resignation as First Minister in Scotland a row developed between civil servants over what title to give his Deputy, Jim Wallace. Documents show that the argument surrounded the title 'Acting First Minister', with one email suggesting 'in layman's terms...he is Acting First Minister but it is not a statutory role'.</p>	1.4.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-2-1550076,00.html	Scottish Executive	Fruit & vegetables

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<p>Wealthy landowners benefit from farm grants Large farming operations and agribusinesses are the principle beneficiaries in the UK of farm subsidies under the Common Agricultural Policy, according to figures released under the FOI Act. Lilburn Estates, farmed by Duncan Davidson, founder of builder Persimmon and multimillionaire Sir Richard Sutton, was paid £1.1m, and the Rothschild family's Buckinghamshire estate received £364,000. Also disclosed were companies that received other subsidies under the CAP such as refunds on exports. They include Tate & Lyle who earned more than £127m and Nestle UK who received £11.6m.</p>	23.5.05	Financial Times	http://news.ft.com/cms/s/5f1af5ca-9b40-11d9-af0f-00000e2511c8.html	Rural Payments Agency	Grants
<p>Fatcat farmers get lion's share of CAP aid Farmers in some of the richest parts of England benefit most from subsidies under the Common Agricultural Policy, according to figures released under the FOI Act. The regional breakdown of payments to farmers in England shows that the South East received £212m in subsidies last year compared to £86m in the North West and £96m in the North East. Affluent Lincolnshire received more than all of the North West where there are three times as many farms.</p>	24.7.05	The Observer	http://observer.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,,1534873,00.html	Rural Payments Agency	Grants
<p>Private forests cost taxpayers £40m Wealthy aristocrats, the Royal Family and foreign timber companies are among those receiving forestry grants worth £40m a year, figures show. The largest landowner in Britain, the Duke of Buccleuch, has received £114,000 in the past two years. In the past 10 years the Queen's estate at Balmoral has received £290,000, while £195,000 has been given in the last two years for the royal forests at Windsor Great Park. Of the £40m total, £12m comes from the European Union.</p>	23.5.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1489870,00.html	Forestry Commission	Grants

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<p>Anti-EU peer given Brussels grant Eurosceptic peer Lord Pearson of Rannoch is financing the replanting of a 300-acre forest on his Perthshire estate with money from Brussels, it has been revealed. Responding to an FOI request, the Forestry Commission confirmed that Lord Pearson had been given a grant of £95,000 to replant an old Caledonian pine forest, half of which will come from the European Union. The 63-year-old peer has called the EU system of grants and subsidies to farmers a "whole vast swindle" and said Britons were forced to pay "higher taxes" ... "to keep EU farmers in the style to which they have become accustomed".</p>	<p>30.5.06</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1495288,00.html</p>	<p>Forestry Commission</p>	<p>Grants</p>
<p>Emails reveal council's chase for US chief Birmingham City Council offered American Valerie Lemmie a pay deal of £160,000 a year and an MGB Roadster as part of a failed effort to secure her as a new chief executive in 2001. According to e-mail correspondence released under the FOI Act, a PricewaterhouseCoopers executive flew to Dayton, Ohio in an attempt to persuade Ms Lemmie to take up the post, but she reneged on a verbal agreement and remained in the US. PWC were paid £55,000 by the Council to headhunt a chief executive.</p>	<p>18.3.05</p>	<p>Birmingham Post</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/birminghampost/news/tm_objectid=15308445%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council</p>	<p>Headhunting</p>
<p>£400,000 to find the high fliers Newcastle City Council has spent nearly £400,000 since 1999 on headhunters to help fill 14 jobs, according to data released under the FOI Act. This figure includes £41,000 the council spent recruiting current chief executive Ian Stratford in 2001. According to the Evening Chronicle at least five of those recruited in this way have since left their posts.</p>	<p>4.4.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=15364677%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>Newcastle City Council</p>	<p>Headhunting</p>

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<p>'Waste of money!' Kirklees Council spent £22,000 on headhunters to fill a single position. According to figures disclosed by the council under the FOI Act the money was paid to a firm last year to fill the role of head of leisure services.</p>	16.5.05	Huddersfield Daily Examiner	http://ichuddersfield.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15523824&method=full&siteid=50060&headline=-waste-of-money---name_page.html	Kirklees Council	Headhunting
<p>No limit to cash in quest for new boss Waveney District Council paid £64,000 to fill the vacant chief executive position, according to documents released under the FOI Act. The papers show that the council paid recruitment agents Veredus £33,500, with a further £30,822 spent on advertisements.</p>	18.2.05	Eastern Daily Press	http://new.edp24.co.uk/search/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=Community&itemid=NOED18%20Feb%202005%2010:37:16:827&Brand=EDPOnline&tCategory=search	Waveney District Council	Headhunting
<p>More than 8 million are now dangerously obese More than eight million Britons are categorised as clinically obese, according to data released under the FOI Act. 22.9% of men and 23.5% of women have a body mass index rating of more than 30, the yardstick for obesity.</p>	26.2.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1501053,00.html	Department of Health	Health
<p>Obesity weighs heavily on Blair's seat Figures from the Department of Health list County Durham and Tees Valley as having the highest proportion of obese people in England. Comparisons between 28 strategic health authorities, released under the FOI Act, show that over one in four people, or 27.3%, in the health authority's area are over the body mass index level used to measure the condition. The national average stands at 21.4%.</p>	26.2.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1425703,00.html	Department of Health	Health
<p>Shock as one in four people are rated obese Figures on obesity have revealed that almost one in four people in Leicestershire are so fat that they are risking their health. The data, released under the FOI Act, shows that around 300,000 people are obese across the Leicestershire, Rutland and Northamptonshire strategic health authority, which has the fifth worst rate of obesity in the country.</p>	7.3.05	Leicester Mercury		Department of Health	Health

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<p>We're all going on a sozzled holiday More than a third of Britons aged 16-30 believe holidays are purely about hedonism, according to a Foreign Office study. Of those, 75% said they wanted to drink to excess, 28% wanted a one-night stand, 8% wanted to take drugs and 5% wanted a fight. The previously unpublished research suggests that West Midlanders have become "modern vikings" - nearly 30% say they go on holiday seeking sex compared with a national figure of 15%, and 13% say they want to take drugs against an average of 4%.</p>	<p>26.6.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2-523-1669635,00.html</p>	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</p>	<p>Health</p>
<p>Mental health alert for students The number of university students seeking counselling has risen by more than 20% to 60,000 in five years. The figures were obtained from 18 universities under the FOI Act. Minutes from Bristol University, where the number of students seeking counselling has risen by 29%, state "The waiting list for the counselling service is of great concern. Some students have to wait four weeks to see a counsellor." British universities spend £30m a year providing counselling for students with mental health problems.</p>	<p>20.9.05</p>	<p>Bristol Evening Post</p>		<p>Various universities</p>	<p>Health</p>
<p>Alarm over sick staff In social services An estimated 20,000 local authority social services staff were signed off work for 2 months or more last year. Responses from 112 councils under the Freedom of Information Act have revealed an average staff turnover of 12.7% in council social services for 2004.</p>	<p>19.4.05</p>	<p>TheTimes</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-8247-1573897,00.html Originally reported in Community Care</p>	<p>Various local authorities</p>	<p>Health</p>
<p>Police sick days tot up to 6,000 Police officers in Coventry missed a total of 6,174 days due to sickness last year. The figures equate to around seven days for each officer and compare favourably with the sickness average for the West Midlands force, which stands at 7.5 days a year. The data includes those on long-term sick leave and those injured on duty.</p>	<p>30.3.05</p>	<p>Coventry Evening Telegraph</p>	<p>http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15348223%26method=full%26siteid=50003-name_page.html</p>	<p>West Midlands Police</p>	<p>Health</p>

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<p>Stressed council staff fear for jobs Staff at Waveney District Council, say their health is suffering due to stress and they fear for their jobs, according to a study disclosed under the FOI Act. The survey shows that nearly fifty per cent of staff said that the stresses of their job affect their health and home life, whilst 28 per cent have actively sought employment outside the council over the past twelve months. Earlier this year the Government's Audit Commission rated the authority as 'weak'.</p>	<p>25.2.05</p>	<p>Eastern Daily Press</p>	<p>http://new.edp24.co.uk/search/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=Community&itemid=NOED25%20Feb%202005%2011:14:10:417&Brand=EDPOnline&tCategory=search</p>	<p>Waveney District Council</p>	<p>Health</p>
<p>Paramedic stress puts strain on emergencies Ambulance staff in Scotland took more than 3,700 days off due to stress last year. Figures released under the FOI (Scotland) Act show that the total number of sick days taken last year was 25,812.</p>	<p>19.6.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/health.cfm?id=673412005</p>	<p>Scottish Ambulance Service</p>	<p>Health</p>
<p>Concern over gas tankers' safety The construction of new liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals in Milford Haven port is "very important to UK plc" according to a Department of Trade and Industry email obtained through the FOI Act. The email from a DTI official to the Health and Safety Executive also reveals that the Department worked "hard to secure the necessary regulatory consents from the European Commission". Concerns have been raised about the safety of gas tankers travelling to the terminals and the suitability of their location.</p>	<p>23.6.05</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/4122234.stm</p>		<p>Health & safety</p>
<p>Port accident record revealed There have been 120 major incidents causing fatal or serious injuries to staff working at Felixstowe docks over the past nine years. Three men have died and others have sustained brain damage, amputations and exposure to dangerous substances. The figures, released by the Health and Safety Executive, also show that there were more than 1,200 less serious accidents.</p>	<p>5.4.05</p>	<p>The Evening Star - Suffolk</p>		<p>Health and Safety Executive</p>	<p>Health & safety</p>

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<p>Bridge safety warning ignored Safety warnings about a dangerous bridge were ignored by North Tyneside Council reports show. The bridge was identified as needing immediate improvement work in July 2005, but it was kept open. On 6 September 2005 a report from consultants Scott Wilson warned "As concrete is spalling from the bridge we continue to recommend the erection of signs warning the public of this potential hazard." A Council spokesperson confirmed that the bridge was closed in October and signs and fencing were erected.</p>	<p>4.11.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/news/tm_objectid=16332789%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>North Tyneside Council</p>	<p>Health & safety</p>
<p>Bridge-leaping ban is thwarted as the local powers dither The 500-year-old May Day tradition, where Oxford students jump from Magdalen Bridge into the River Cherwell has been the subject of behind-the-scenes squabbles between the local authorities. Documents released under the FOI Act show that Thames Valley Police want the bridge closed for safety reasons, councillors believe the future leaders of the country should know better, while the university suggested draining the river. Forty people were injured and 12 required hospital treatment in the last mass jump.</p>	<p>12.11.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1868988,00.html</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>Health & safety</p>
<p>Metro trolley drama Failings which led to a rail trolley running out of control on Newcastle's Metro lines have been disclosed under the FOI Act. A report from Metro operator Nexus highlights two immediate causes and seven underlying reasons for the incident, which could have led to serious injury or death. Safety rules were broken when supervisors allowed workers to push the trolley, loaded with heavy rail lines, even though they knew the brakes were faulty.</p>	<p>7.3.05</p>	<p>The Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=15267218%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>Nexus (Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive)</p>	<p>Health & safety</p>

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<p>Areas where fire is greatest risk Maps of Hertford and Ware showing areas where homes are most at risk of fire have been obtained under the FOI Act. The colour-coded maps show whether properties are at 'very high', 'high', 'medium', or 'low and very low' risk. An area is deemed to be at higher risk if it contains a higher proportion of single-parent families, lone pensioners, people in rented accommodation or those with long-term illnesses. Multiple occupancy buildings such as hostels are also considered to be at greater risk.</p>	4.11.05	Hertfordshire Mercury	http://www.hertsexnews.co.uk/news/mercury/hertfordshire_mercury/2005/11/04/areas%20where%20fire%20risk%20is%20greatest.lpf	Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service	Health & safety
<p>Pesticide probe into death of farm worker hit by lab error Three samples sent to the forensic science laboratories at the University of Glasgow have been accidentally disposed of since 2002. One sample belonged to Graham Stephen a young farm worker who died after applying a highly toxic pesticide to a potato crop. The official investigation into his death was abandoned following the error. Details of the mistake were unearthed using the FOI Act.</p>	28.8.05	The Sunday Herald		University of Glasgow	Health & safety
<p>Thieves raise the roof at listed castle Fresh fears have been voiced over one of Northern Ireland's most historic buildings after thieves struck at the Co Armagh property. Lead has been stolen from the roof of 19th century Grade A listed Gosford Castle, causing major damage to the roof structure and leaving the interior even more exposed to the elements. Documents released under the Freedom of Information Act show that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development was warned in June 2004 about interior damage and the failure of temporary roof repairs.</p>	15.9.05	Belfast Telegraph		Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	Historic buildings

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<p>Details released of proposed £19m revamp of clan castle Dunvegan Castle, on the Isle of Skye, is in need of extensive structural repairs beyond what was provisionally estimated, according to a study released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. A deal is being negotiated by a group of public bodies to refurbish the landmark in return for the owner, clan chief John MacLeod of MacLeod, gifting the Cuillin mountains to the nation.</p>	<p>27.1.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/archive.cfm?id=99432005</p>	<p>Highlands and Islands Enterprise</p>	<p>Historic buildings</p>
<p>How V2 menace terrorised Whitehall The government feared over 100,000 deaths from V2 rocket attacks on London during World War II according to documents released under the FOI Act. The papers demonstrate the depth of concern before the raids began, and detail plans to carry out government from underground tunnels connected to Tube stations. Projected figures suggested an average mortality per missile of 150 with 150 seriously wounded and 300 slightly hurt. After a month it was feared 108,000 Londoners would have been killed by the "Big Ben" V2s.</p>	<p>28.2.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/02/28/ntwo28.xml</p>	<p>National Archives</p>	<p>Historical</p>
<p>Britain begged America for food surplus to build nuclear war stockpile Britain proposed to take up to two million tons of American food in order to safeguard against famine following a feared nuclear holocaust, according to documents released under the FOI Act. The plan, proposed in 1956, was designed to take advantage of the US's desire to offload their huge surplus of agricultural goods. However, no deal was finalised due to disagreements over what food would be involved.</p>	<p>7.3.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/03/07/nfia07.xml</p>		<p>Historical</p>

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<p>Britain would be happy to scrap the pound Conservative Prime Minister Edward Heath was prepared for economic union if Britain joined the European Community, documents show. According to official minutes of a Paris summit in 1971, Heath told French President George Pompidou the British Government “did not regard sterling as an instrument of prestige nor did they feel sentimental about it.” He said European Community members should move as soon as possible to “co-ordinate their monetary policies”</p>	<p>25.7.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/07/25/nheath25.xml</p>	<p>National Archives</p>	<p>Historical</p>
<p>Heseltine wrote off Concorde as ‘hopeless’ Reports produced for Downing Street in 1973 reveal that officials harboured serious concerns about the economic viability of Concorde and that they correctly predicted Britain and France would struggle to sell the aircraft. The documents show that Michael Heseltine, then minister for air transport, told Prime Minister Edward Heath that Concorde was a ‘hopeless project’. The papers also suggest that Britain persevered because of fears that withdrawal would jeopardise the UK’s entry into the European Economic Community.</p>	<p>22.2.05</p>	<p>The Independent</p>		<p>National Archives</p>	<p>Historical</p>
<p>How Harold Wilson stepped in over Slater Walker debacle THE near-collapse of Slater Walker Securities in 1975 sent shockwaves through the government and sparked a row between the Treasury and the Bank of England. In a briefing for the chancellor, a Treasury official admitted: “We asked the Bank for an analysis...but this has not been forthcoming.” The Treasury also questioned the appointment of James Goldsmith as chairman of the firm “I hope the Bank, who are up to their neck in the Slater Walker affair, are fully satisfied that Mr Goldsmith is a proper person” adding “his reputation as far as the general public is concerned is that of a playboy and speculator.”</p>	<p>2.10.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2095-1806862,00.html</p>	<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Historical</p>

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<p>How Bank had to bail out Lazard Lazard, the \$800m Wall Street firm, would have collapsed in 1931 but for a clandestine multi-million loan from the Bank of England. Fraud by staff in Lazard's Brussels office created a £5.8m black hole in the company, equivalent to £250m today. Minutes of emergency meetings disclosed under the FOI Act, reveal that the Bank feared the fraud could threaten the financial stability of the City of London. So in a secret deal, the Bank funnelled a £3m loan to Lazard through S Pearson & Son (now Pearson plc).</p>	31.7.05	The Sunday Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2-528-1714813,00.html	Bank of England	Historical
<p>Labour and Tories united to foil BBC Labour ministers worked with the Conservative leadership to trying to block a series of BBC programmes seen as encouraging support for the Scottish National Party. The five programmes were made in 1977 to examine how Scotland might look by 1980 if it became independent. At the time, Labour and the Conservatives feared a surge in SNP support in district council elections. The documents show Labour minister Harry Ewing, now Lord Ewing, feared the implications were "serious enough to warrant intervention by the government at the most senior level".</p>	6.10.05	The Herald		National Archives	Historical
<p>Out in open – notes from war bunker to be released Cabinet secretaries' notebooks going back to 1942 will begin to be published from January 2006. The decision is in response to pressure under the Freedom of Information Act. Until 1942, the government of the day destroyed the accounts at the end of the year. In 1942 a decision was taken to preserve the notes for posterity, but publication has been resisted until now on the grounds that it would break collective cabinet responsibility. The first tranche of notebooks to be published, from 1942 to 1947 are expected to cover the blitz, the victory at El Alamein, the preparations for D-Day, plus plans for the welfare state and education reform.</p>	1.10.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1582469,00.html	National Archives	Historical

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<p>Britain's 10 best-kept secrets The 10 oldest Home Office secrets have been opened to the public in response to an FOI request. The files, closed by the Home Office for 100 years, have been released early at the National Archives. One file relates to the case of two German Navy deserters found sleeping under shrubs in Tottenham, north London, in 1910. The incident infuriated the then Home Secretary Winston Churchill when the two were sent home without proper procedures being followed. "No order has been signed by me... the course adopted has been altogether irregular and illegal" he wrote in a letter demanding to know who was responsible. A note on the file reads "The less said about this the better." Another file concerns the imprisonment of suffragettes Arabella and Muriel Scott. The sisters were jailed for 21 days for "obstruction" for handing in a petition at 10 Downing Street in July 1909. A letter from G K Knight of Suffragists' Vigilance to H Gladstone MP questioned whether Downing Street, being a cul-de-sac, was a highway within the meaning of the Act under which the women had been prosecuted.</p>	<p>3.2.05</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/4230733.stm</p>	<p>National Archives</p>	<p>Historical</p>
<p>Nick's rumble with Rifkind A biting letter written in December 1988 by Sir Nicholas Fairburn then a Tory MP to Malcolm Rifkind the Scottish Secretary has come to light under the FOI Act. "I seriously think that you should revise your hubris on the success of your policies and propaganda in Scotland" Sir Nicholas wrote "because I really did get the impression last night that ministers are cocooned from reality; because they read their own press releases and imagine everybody else does! Incidentally, I enclose the arrogant bump which I received from our much-vaunted turn-around new-look Central Office."</p>	<p>18.3.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/opinion.cfm?id=292542005</p>		<p>Historical</p>

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<p>Mo made a meal of it but Mandy had more friends for dinner Mo Mowlem spent £156,772.42 on 3,793 guests when she was Northern Ireland secretary, an average of £41.15 a guest. In comparison, her successor Peter Mandelson spent £129,565.32 on 5,254 guests, an average of £24.66 a guest.</p>	15.5.05	Sunday Times - Ireland	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2091-1612658,00.html	Northern Ireland Office	Hospitality
<p>Storm rages over WDA junkets The Welsh Development Agency, responsible for boosting employment in Wales, spent around £150,000 in a six months period courting potential clients across the world. Figures released under the FOI Act reveal that hospitality ranged from private boxes at American football matches to trips to Australia and the USA. A visit to the Hong Kong Sevens to "target Chinese and Australian multipliers and business projects" cost almost £28,000.</p>	5.6.05	Wales on Sunday	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15594071%26method=full%26siteid=50082-name_page.html	Welsh Assembly Government	Hospitality
<p>McConnell bash costs public 33k £59,468 was spent last year on events hosted by the First Minister in Scotland, according to figures disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The Union of the Crowns anniversary dinner, held in July 2003, cost £33,379, by far the most expensive event hosted by a First Minister. The cost of such events is up from £28,979 in 2000/01.</p>	6.4.05	Evening News - Edinburgh	http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=364582005	Scottish Executive	Hospitality
<p>Minister admits defeat on key pledge The government has accepted defeat in its drive to raise council houses to a decent standard in some areas, according to a letter released under the FOI Act. Keith Hill, the housing minister, suggested that because of tenants' rejections of government plans, "in such cases...an authority will not be able to meet the target by 2010."</p>	19.2.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1418033,00.html	Camden Council	Housing

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<p>Disunity leads consortium astray The standard of work on a housing refurbishment programme for Islington Council was described as "disappointing", according to documents released under the FOI Act. The work was carried out by a consortium under a Private Finance Initiative deal. A surveyor's report stated that there was "no consistency of quality of design in the kitchen layouts", noting that "isolated wall units had been fitted above seating areas or positioned randomly along different...areas."</p>	25.2.05	Inside Housing	http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/default.aspx?contentid=1cfe96e2-a785-455e-ae2a-5c130d5014c7&id=1446586	Homes for Islington	Housing
<p>Fury over number of homes standing empty There are 271 empty council properties in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, 45 of which have been empty for more than 34 days. The figures were revealed following an FOI request.</p>	14.9.05	Barking and Dagenham Post	http://www.bdpost.co.uk/content/barkinganddagenham/post/news/story.aspx?brand=BDPOnline&category=news&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newsbdp&itemid=WeED14%20Sep%202005%2011%3A13%3A15%3A077	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	Housing
<p>EDP digs for the truth A survey aimed at understanding the risk of subsidence and collapse in Norwich has been released under the FOI Act. The survey is one of more than 20 studies commissioned by the council since 1964 around an area pockmarked with old mine shafts and tunnels. The results show that homes are in limited danger of sudden collapse but roadways, garages and even a garden could all fall through. In 2001 a 16-storey block of flats was evacuated for eight weeks as the council dealt with a large hole underneath the building.</p>	18.2.05	Eastern Daily Press	http://new.edp24.co.uk/search/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&itemid=NOED18%20Feb%202005%2009:27:47:530&tBrand=EDPOnline&tCategory=search	Norwich City Council	Housing
<p>Newcomers supply missing pieces of skills gap puzzle The UK Government's decision not to impose limits on migrants from the 10 countries that joined the European Union on 1 May 2004 was based "on the benefits to the UK economy", according to a document released under the FOI Act. Britain, Sweden and Ireland were the only EU members that fully opened their doors to workers from the new member states.</p>	13.5.05	Financial Times	http://news.ft.com/cms/s/82268066-c34a-11d9-abf1-00000e2511c8.html	Treasury	Immigration

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<p>University scam lets in illegal migrants Illegal immigrants may be entering Britain by enrolling on university courses, obtaining student visas and then disappearing. Under the present arrangements overseas students do not have to pay their fees in advance, they only have to show they have the means to pay. Figures for 37 universities, released under the Freedom of Information Act, show that more than 17,000 non-European Union students accepted undergraduate or graduate places last year but never arrived at their colleges. However, not all of these are abusing their visas - many go to other institutions or never enter the country.</p>	<p>4.9.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1763883,00.html</p>	<p>Universities</p>	<p>Immigration</p>
<p>Asylum dissent 'not tolerated' A report on the National Asylum Support Service criticises the Government for setting up an organisation to disperse asylum-seekers around the country on a "simplistic view of the scale and nature of the job". The 2003 report, disclosed under the FOI Act, suggests a lack of open discussion between ministers and officials over immigration and asylum policy, and says the £1.1 billion Home Office service was not resourced adequately.</p>	<p>9.2.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>			<p>Immigration</p>
<p>Illegal immigrants could top half a million There could be between 310,000 and 570,000 illegal immigrants living in Britain, though the most likely figure is 430,000 or 0.7% of the UK population, according to a Home Office estimate. During the 2005 election the Prime Minister insisted it was impossible to provide an accurate estimate and that no such figure existed. But following a FOI request it was revealed that the Home Office had commissioned a study on the subject in 2002.</p>	<p>1.7.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1518646,00.html</p>	<p>Home Office</p>	<p>Immigration</p>

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<p>Newcomers supply missing pieces if skills gap puzzle The UK Government's decision not to impose limits on migrants from the 10 countries that joined the European Union on 1 May 2004 was based "on the benefits to the UK economy", according to a document released under the FOI Act. Britain, Sweden and Ireland were the only EU members that fully opened their doors to workers from the new members. The document also shows that the government considered migrants responsible for about 15 per cent of trend growth and 10 per cent of gross domestic product even though they accounted for just 8 per cent of the population.</p>	<p>13.5.05</p>	<p>Financial Times</p>			<p>Immigration</p>
<p>Bloody Sunday rifle found in Sierra Leone A police investigation to track down the weapons used by paratroopers on Bloody Sunday discovered they had fallen into the hands of the army in Sierra Leone, paramilitary police in Beirut and an Arkansas gun shop. The investigation on behalf of Lord Savile's inquiry into the shooting dead of 13 people in 1972, only recovered a few of the 29 rifles. Many were disposed of just days before the inquiry started, with some melted down for scrap metal and others sold to international dealers. At least two were destroyed after Saville had asked that they be preserved. The report said "What occurred was a mixture of mistakes, human error and negligence".</p>	<p>14.8.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>			<p>Inquiries</p>
<p>Lawrence inquiry bill tops £9m The investigation and inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence in 1993 cost police more than £9m. The partial costings released under the FOI Act include the £3.2m spent on the inquiry by Sir William Macpherson, which reported in February 1999 and £6.2m spent in the three years following the inquiry. Few records were kept on the financing of the original investigation, and hence the total bill will never be known.</p>	<p>5.2.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1470866,00.html</p>	<p>Metropolitan Police</p>	<p>Inquiries</p>

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<p>£2m cost so far of Diana inquiry An investigation into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, could cost up to £2 million. Figures released by Scotland Yard under the Freedom of Information Act show that a team of 15 police and civilians, plus Lord Stevens the former Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, are involved in the inquiry. The costs include £38,000 on office refurbishing and £42,000 on travel.</p>	<p>11.8.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-2-1730251,00.html</p>	<p>Metropolitan Police</p>	<p>Inquiries</p>
<p>Treasury keeps Equitable papers secret Equitable Life boss Charles Thompson criticised the government's failure to push through legislation to protect insurance policyholders from liability if insurers go bust. Papers released under the FOI Act relating to the near-collapse of Equitable Life show that Thompson wrote to Stephen Timms, then Financial Secretary, expressing his concern.</p>	<p>3.2.05</p>	<p>The Daily Mail</p>	<p>http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/business/articles/timid397691?source=</p>	<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Insurance industry</p>
<p>France blamed MI6 for Rainbow Warrior The French government tried to blame British intelligence service MI6 for the bombing of the Greenpeace ship the Rainbow Warrior, documents show. Malcolm Rifkind foreign minister at the time, instructed British diplomats to tell the French government to stop the "campaign of misinformation". And foreign secretary Geoffrey Howe was "disturbed" that stories persisted after he had complained to the French foreign minister. However by October 1985 one mandarin commented that allegations of British involvement "have surfaced less and less frequently as French responsibility has become unmistakably clear."</p>	<p>28.11.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://politics.guardian.co.uk/foi/story/0,9061,1652392,00.html</p>	<p>National Archives/ Foreign and Commonwealth Office</p>	<p>International relations</p>

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<p>Rainbow Warrior was played down Mrs Thatcher refused to sanction official criticism of the French for blowing up the British-registered Greenpeace ship the Rainbow Warrior in 1985. Papers show that the former Prime Minister sided with the foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, who did not want to “rub salt in French wounds” over cabinet colleagues who thought the government should take a firmer line. The papers also show that the Thatcher government refused to hold an inquiry into the sinking, as it had the power to do.</p>	23.8.05	The Guardian	http://politics.guardian.co.uk/foi/story/0,9061,1554612,00.html	National Archives	International relations
<p>UK reveals payments for Iraqi intelligence The US paid Iraqi opposition leaders millions of dollars for flawed intelligence on Saddam Hussein's regime. A confidential Foreign Office paper, disclosed under the UK FOI Act, said the Iraqi National Congress was “in receipt of approximately \$4m per annum from the US government” for “intelligence supplied before and during the US-led coalition's occupation of Iraq”. It added, “This intelligence has since been denounced as flawed and the payments have been stopped.”</p>	4.3.05	Financial Times	http://news.ft.com/cms/s/7ec15fc4-8c52-11d9-a895-00000e2511c8.html	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	International relations
<p>Law chief's war doubts revealed Correspondence between Lord Goldsmith and the Prime Minister shows the attorney-general insisted it was “essential” that “strong evidence” existed that Iraq had failed to comply with the United Nations Security Council. The letters, quoted in the Butler report but released fully under the FOI Act, reveal the Prime Minister replied that in his view Iraq was in material breach of the Security Council resolution because of “false statements or omissions in the declarations submitted by Iraq”.</p>	13.2.05	The Sunday Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/news/paper/0,,176-1481756,00.html	Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers	International relations

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<p>McConnell snubbed over Cape Town trip Papers relating to Scottish First Minister Jack McConnell's trip to Africa in May 2005 have been released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. They reveal that Mr McConnell was forced to abandon plans to visit South Africa, after the Foreign Office warned that none of the country's senior politicians would meet him. "Parliament will not be sitting in late May, so there will be no MPs or select committees to meet," an official from the High Commission in Pretoria wrote. The official also dismissed hopes of a meeting with the South African President, saying "We could ask for a meeting with President Mbeki, but we need to manage McConnell's expectations as it is unlikely to happen".</p>	<p>26.9.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=1992802005</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>International relations</p>
<p>Attitude to EU will take 'decades' to change A Foreign Office memo released under the FOI Act suggests that changing the public's attitude towards the European Union will take "decades". The document claims the public see the EU as "too distant to have relevance on...everyday lives" and that people "forget the [European Parliament] even exists". The memo also cites polls suggesting that a quarter of the British public want further integration and a quarter want less.</p>	<p>17.2.05</p>	<p>Financial Times</p>	<p>http://news.ft.com/cms/s/65adaed2-8088-11d9-bd50-00000e2511c8.html</p>	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</p>	<p>International relations</p>
<p>Revealed: Straw's secret bid to stop Zimbabwe cricket tour Jack Straw wrote to the English and Wales Cricket Board in January 2004 effectively urging them to reconsider their controversial tour of Zimbabwe, according to correspondence released under the FOI Act. The Foreign Secretary urged the board to consider the "appalling human rights situation" in the country, asking whether a high-profile England tour was "consistent" with Zimbabwe's increasing international isolation.</p>	<p>3.3.05</p>	<p>The Independent</p>		<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</p>	<p>International relations</p>

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<p>Revealed: the letters that spared Lloyd's Correspondence between the UK government and the European Commission over the supervision of Lloyds insurance market in the 1980s has been disclosed under the FOI Act. It includes letters from 2002-3, sent by Sir Nigel Sheinwald then UK ambassador to the Commission, in response to threatened enforcement orders from Brussels.</p>	29.3.05	The Independent		Treasury	International relations
<p>How border row was solved by British officer's diplomacy A British Army officer played a crucial role in resolving a potential international crisis when Iranian troops launched an illegal incursion into Iraq in 2003. The officer and other British personnel from 19 Mechanised Brigade HQ in Basra, carried out a routine patrol of the Iran-Iraq border on July 5 2003 when they came across "manned Iranian posts...at regular intervals" which were "well armed". The American military commander in Baghdad ordered British troops to prepare for offensive action, but the British authorities decided to "take a balanced, progressive approach to the situation", the documents show.</p>	11.8.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-6047-1730082,00.html	Ministry of Defence	International relations
<p>Firm loses fight to block corruption inquiry British energy company EFT is under investigation for alleged corruption in the Balkans. Two EFT directors and two former officials of the Bosnian electricity company are being investigated according to court documents. In a telegram released under the Freedom of Information Act, Ian Cliff, the British ambassador in Sarajevo, wrote: "The audit makes depressing reading ... it reveals in convincing detail what everyone knows: that public companies in the [Serb-controlled part of Bosnia] are run as a racket for a small political elite."</p>	23.7.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1534591,00.html	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	International relations

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<p>BBC bought little used domain name for \$375,000 The BBC paid \$375,000 (£213,000) to buy the bbc.com domain name from an American firm with the same initials. The Corporation disclosed the figure in response to an FOI request. The domain name was acquired from Boston Business Computing because, according to a spokesperson, "the BBC had a duty to its brand and users to provide an easy route to its online content".</p>	<p>9.10.05</p>			<p>BBC</p>	<p>Internet</p>
<p>Nominet challenged The legitimacy of Nominet, the registry of .uk domain names, has been called into question after it was revealed that the Government has provided no statutory authority for the company to make judgements about web addresses in the UK. Nominet claims to be "officially recognised as the .uk domain name registry by the internet industry, users and the UK Government." But in a response to an FOI request, the DTI stated that there has never been statutory or official recognition of Nominet's position</p>	<p>26.5.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://business.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2020-9080-1628872,00.html</p>	<p>Department of Trade and Industry</p>	<p>Internet</p>
<p>Violent suspects remain at large More than 100 people suspected of violent crimes in Scotland remain at large because police have failed to enforce warrants for their arrest. In Strathclyde, the largest force, 4 men wanted for murder are at large, 8 for attempted murder, 7 for rape and 74 for serious assault. In the same area, 7 murders and 345 attempted murders since 1999 remain unsolved. Data was provided by 5 of Scotland's police forces under the FOI (Scotland) Act. However, Central Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway and Northern police forces refused to disclose the information.</p>	<p>30.10.05</p>	<p>Sunday Times Scotland</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2090-1849745,00.html</p>	<p>Scottish police forces</p>	<p>Law enforcement</p>

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<p>Number of offences by bail bandits shoots up Offences committed by people on bail have increased dramatically in parts of Scotland, figures show. In West Lothian there has been a 1511% increase from 9 bail offences in 1997 to 145 last year. Across Lothian and Borders the number rose from 183 in 1997 to 853 last year, a 366% increase.</p>	<p>23.9.05</p>	<p>Evening News - Edinburgh</p>		<p>Lothian and Borders Police</p>	<p>Law enforcement</p>
<p>Banned motorists flouting the law More than 5,000 people in the Northumbria Police area have been convicted for driving while disqualified in the last 3 years, figures obtained under the FOI Act show. In the same period there were 40,107 prosecutions for driving without insurance.</p>	<p>5.10.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16211500%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>		<p>Law enforcement</p>
<p>Police 'failing to enforce drink laws' Police failure to enforce laws to tackle binge drinking has led to frustration in Whitehall, internal documents suggest. A briefing document written for Tessa Jowell the culture secretary ahead of a ministerial meeting says "There are some fundamental questions to ask about police enforcement...Under present law it is illegal to allow drunkenness on licensed premises or to serve someone who is drunk. I recognise the resource issues for the police, but the law needs to be enforced. We would support the idea of some high-profile exemplar prosecutions."</p>	<p>17.8.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://politics.guardian.co.uk/foi/story/0,9061,1550517,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Culture, Media and Sport</p>	<p>Law enforcement</p>
<p>West Midlands Police carried out half of all 'stop and searches' Nearly half of all 'stop and searches' by police on people in Britain were carried out by the West Midlands force, figures have revealed. The figures for searches under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act were released under the FOI Act. Separate figures show that in the year to March 2004, West Midlands Police made 22,567 Section 60 searches, 51 per cent of which were on people from a black or Asian background.</p>	<p>29.6.05</p>	<p>Birmingham Post</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/birminghampost/news/tm_objectid=15679050%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>		<p>Law enforcement</p>

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<p>We must get tough More than half the Anti-Social Behaviour orders secured by Northumbria Police have been broken, figures disclosed under the FOI Act reveal. One hundred and eight Asbo's have been imposed in the area, which have been breached a total of 224 times. Of these, 77 breaches resulted in a custodial sentence, the ultimate sanction.</p>	22.8.05	Evening Chronicle - Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=15884181%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html	Northumbria Police	Law enforcement
<p>Metro reports 10% drop in crime Crime on the Metro system in Tyne and Wear has fallen by 10% figures disclosed under the FOI Act show. There were 1,945 incidents of crime and disorder recorded in 2004-5 compared to 2,163 the previous year and 2,265 the year before. Stations with the most problems were Heworth, Monument in Newcastle, Gateshead, North Shields, Regent Centre in Gosforth and Pelaw.</p>	25.10.05	The Evening Chronicle - Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16291300%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html		Law enforcement
<p>County police only solve 15pc of home raids Under 15% of domestic burglaries in Shropshire over the past three years have been solved by the police, according to documents released under the FOI Act. Of 6,755 burglaries, 972 or 14.4% resulted in people being charged, cautioned or taken to court.</p>	27.4.05	Shropshire Star	http://www.shropshirestar.com/show_article.php?aID=32382	West Mercia Police	Law enforcement
<p>Executive's clash with agency revealed Doubts have been raised about the accuracy of figures on persistent young offenders in Scotland, following the disclosure of correspondence under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The documents expose disagreement between the Scottish Executive and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration. The SCRA is expected to publish a report putting the number of persistent young offenders at 1201, a figure described as failing to be "consistent and accurate" by an Executive official.</p>	Feb 2005	The Herald		Scottish Executive	Law enforcement

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<p>Moors murder girl: records revealed Files on the Moors Murderers Myra Hindley and Ian Brady have been released by the National Archives under the FOI Act. The files include photographs of the couple and full transcripts of evidence, only part of which were given at their trial in 1966. Among the documents is the testimony of 12-year-old schoolgirl Patricia Ann Hodges who was befriended by the pair but was not one of their victims. Also included are photocopies of Brady's notebooks in which describes people as "maggots" and "worthless fish bait".</p>	30.12.05	Manchester Evening News	http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/194/194460_moors_murder_girl_records_revealed.html	National Archives	Law enforcement
<p>£27m wasted as legal aid cases ditched Over £27m was spent on legal aid in the financial year 2004-5 to fund civil cases that were abandoned before reaching court. The figures were disclosed by the Legal Services Commission under the FOI Act,</p>	7.11.05	Western Mail	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0600uk/tm_objectid=16340773&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=-pound-27m-of-our-money-wasted-as-legal-aid--cases--ditched-name_page.html	Legal Services Commission	Legal costs
<p>Top criminal legal aid barristers on £500,000-plus A list of barristers earning the most from criminal legal aid in 2002-03 has been released by the Department for Constitutional Affairs in response to an FOI request. The list is headed by a barrister who received £800,000 during the year. It also includes one of the counsel in the failed Jubilee line prosecution which collapsed after 21 months at a cost of £60m.</p>	20.4.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1463584,00.html	Department for Constitutional Affairs	Legal costs
<p>How tube fraud case gravy train paid out £20m A detailed breakdown of the £20m wasted legal fees resulting from the abandoned Jubilee line corruption trial has been revealed under the FOI Act. The trial was finally abandoned after five years when jurors refused to continue. The figures show that £14m was spent in legal aid with one firm of solicitors receiving £3.1m,</p>	1.4.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1449675,00.html	Legal Services Commission	Legal costs

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<p>£170,000 legal bill for Porton Down probe Police investigating chemical tests on servicemen at Porton Down during the 1950's and 60's have spent £170,207 on legal fees. Wiltshire Police, which carried out the £2m Operation Antler investigation, disclosed the costs following an FOI request by Mr Graham Bell, a former serviceman who was one of the recruits used in the experiments. The fees were paid to a private law firm in Leeds for services up to 25 July 2005.</p>	<p>27.9.05</p>	<p>Sunderland Today</p>	<p>http://www.sunderlandtoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=1107&ArticleID=1202704</p>	<p>Wiltshire Police</p>	<p>Legal costs</p>
<p>FSA spent £6.4m in split-cap legal fees The Financial Services Authority spent £6.4m in external legal fees on an inquiry into the split-capital investment trust sector, according to a response given to a FOI Act request. The costs, which also included 62,000 man hours internally, were incurred over 32 months to the end of 2004 and confirmed the inquiry as regulator's most expensive investigation.</p>	<p>23.2.05</p>	<p>Independent</p>	<p>http://news.independent.co.uk/business/news/article12424.ece</p>	<p>Financial Services Authority</p>	<p>Legal costs</p>
<p>TfL seeks early review of Tube PPP Transport for London spent £1.6 million in legal fees during its two failed High Court challenges to the London Underground PPP, according to documents released under the FOI Act.</p>	<p>7.4.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://business.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2020-9082-1558112,00.html</p>	<p>Transport for London</p>	<p>Legal costs</p>
<p>Life-or-death for baby Charlotte Legal action concerning the case of a severely brain-damaged baby who has survived against the odds cost Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust £115,000 up to March 2005. The figure, released under the FOI Act, includes attempts by baby Charlotte Wyatt's parents to lift a court order allowing a hospital to withhold resuscitation. A High-Court judge upheld the ruling in April 2005.</p>	<p>17.4.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-523-1572324,00.html</p>	<p>Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust</p>	<p>Legal costs</p>

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<p>Libel Over the past three years the BBC has lost 28 libel cases according to files released under the Freedom of Information Act. The corporation's biggest payout was the £500,000 damages and £297,161 awarded to Oryx Natural Resources after falsely claiming that one of its directors was involved with Al-Qaeda.</p>	<p>3.7.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-523-1678581,00.html</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>Legal costs</p>
<p>Anger at bill for standards hearing A hearing into the conduct of a parish councillor cost nearly £4,000. Babergh Council's standards committee found that clergyman Chris Jowett should have declared an interest and left a meeting when a proposal to introduce parking restrictions near his home was discussed, but decided not to reprimand him in the circumstances. Mr Jowett, who has since resigned from the council, was advised it was not necessary for him to declare an interest in the home, which is owned by the church. The figures show the main cost of the hearing was hiring a solicitor, whose fees totalled £3,954.</p>	<p>27.5.05</p>	<p>Evening Star – Ipswich</p>		<p>Babergh District Council</p>	<p>Legal costs</p>
<p>Hush up food scares, industry says Food manufacturers asked the Food Standards Agency to consider keeping information about unsafe foods from the public. Minutes of an FSA meeting with the Food and Drink Federation, released under the FOI Act, state "The FDF commented that the publicity surrounding a recall was a key concern and suggested that the FSA needed to ... secure removal of products from the food chain without the type of media headlines seen during the Worcester sauce incident".</p>	<p>21.8.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2095-1743193,00.html</p>	<p>Food Standards Agency</p>	<p>Lobbying</p>

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<p>How soap industry put heat on watchdog Papers released under the FOI (Scotland) Act show that the soap industry exerted pressure on the Scottish Environment Protection Agency to amend its advice regarding the dangers of detergents. SEPA released a leaflet warning of the dangers to Loch Lomond from the use of some products, prompting the UK Cleaning Products Industry Association to protest that the data and suggested implications were out of date and incorrect.</p>	<p>7.3.05</p>	<p>The Herald</p>		<p>Scottish Environmental Protection Agency</p>	<p>Lobbying</p>
<p>Government to rule out Sunday shopping reforms The Better Regulation Task Force resisted pressure from the retail industry to intervene over Sunday trading laws. Documents show the Task Force concluded that restrictions on Sunday trading "were a matter of government policy and it was not the role of the task force to question them". A Task Force briefing document said "It is not really clear why Bond Pearce [retail industry's lawyers] is pressing for deregulation at the moment", adding "Officials at the DTI are not aware of any softening of the government's position and believe that...the Sunday Trading Act 1994 represents a reasonable balance between strongly competing views."</p>	<p>3.7.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-528-1678427,00.html</p>	<p>Better Regulation Task Force</p>	<p>Lobbying</p>
<p>Opencast mine bid pressure mounts Documents disclosed under the FOI Act show that the Department of Trade and Industry pressured Welsh First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, to process an application for a controversial opencast mine after representations from the company involved. In 2002 the director of Miller Argent, the company concerned, told a DTI official "it is reassuring to have supporters such as yourselves." After the Welsh Assembly called the application in, Energy Minister, Stephen Timms wrote to Rhodri Morgan "My interest is that the application is resolved with the minimum of further delay."</p>	<p>26.9.05</p>	<p>Western Mail</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/newspolitics/tm_objectid=16174235&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=pressure-on-rhodri-over-opencast-mine-bid-name_page.html</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly Government</p>	<p>Lobbying</p>

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<p>Blair and Jowell 'misled MPs over US casino talks' Documents obtained under the FOI Act confirm that officials at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport discussed relaxing the proposed EU money laundering regulations with American casino operators and lobbied the Treasury to change them. The regulations could require everyone entering a casino to produce proof of identity, a requirement opposed by casino operators. During a Parliamentary debate the Culture Secretary, Tessa Jowell said "Discussions on the money laundering directive are a matter for the Treasury".</p>	8.8.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/08/08/ncasino08.xml	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	Lobbying
<p>Secret minutes reveal how Sky boss pressed for Ofcom to oversee BBC Satellite group BSkyB urged the government to give media regulator Ofcom the powers to monitor the BBC, documents disclosed under the FOI Act reveal. Minutes of a meeting between James Murdoch, the Sky chief executive, and Tessa Jowell, the culture secretary, show that the government promised to look at how the BBC cross-promoted its services as part of its review of the corporation's charter. A briefing note for the culture secretary revealed that the satellite group "strongly believes the BBC should be brought within the ambit of regulation by Ofcom".</p>	10.11.05	The Guardian	http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,16781,1638748,00.html	Department for Culture Media and Sport	Lobbying
<p>Jowell and Murdoch talked cricket before deal Culture secretary Tessa Jowell met James Murdoch Sky's chief executive, three weeks before the satellite broadcaster won exclusive rights to cover Test cricket. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2004, disclosed under the FOI Act, reveal that Murdoch "said he wanted to discuss sports, the ECB [England and Wales Cricket Board] and the broadcast of Test cricket matches." But details of the discussion were withheld. Sky's four-year £220m deal to screen all domestic test matches and one day internationals from summer 2006, was announced three weeks later.</p>	1.12.05	The Guardian	http://sport.guardian.co.uk/cricket/story/0,10069,1654569,00.html	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	Lobbying

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<p>Drugs firm stayed silent over its faulty vaccines Powderject the drugs firm run by multi-millionaire Labour donor and Government minister Lord Drayson, knew for nearly two years that nine batches of anti-TB jabs produced at its Liverpool factory had failed quality control checks, but it did not inform health regulators or the NHS. The problems are detailed in a report from the Medicines Control Agency (now the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Authority) obtained under the FOI Act. The MHRA said that 900,000 individual doses could have been affected.</p>	<p>21.11.05</p>	<p>Western Daily Post</p>	<p>http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=16394632&method=full&siteid=50061&headline=drugs-firm-stayed-silent-over-its-faulty-vaccines-name_page.html</p>	<p>Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency</p>	<p>Medicines</p>
<p>Regulator sought curbs on high dose of cholesterol drug The Committee on Safety of Medicines, the UK medicine experts, expressed concerns about high dosages of the cholesterol-lowering drug 'Crestor' just two months before it went on to the market, minutes released under the FOI Act show. The Committee was concerned about potentially higher rates of side effects compared to other 'statins'. The drug went on the market at more than twice the Committee's suggested dosage in March 2003, at the rate recommended by the Europe-wide decision body.</p>	<p>10.2.05 and 21.2.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,,1409714,00.html</p>	<p>Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency</p>	<p>Medicines</p>
<p>MRSA up by 15 per cent Cases of the 'superbug' MRSA rose 15% between 2003 and 2004 in Furness General Hospital in Cumbria, according to figures released under the FOI Act. The figures show that 226 inpatients were diagnosed with MRSA in 2004, compared to 167 in 2003. However, the outpatient rate fell overall between 2002 and 2004.</p>	<p>5.3.05</p>	<p>North-West Evening Mail</p>	<p>http://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=187028</p>		<p>MRSA</p>

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<p>We're not complacent on MRSA, say hospital There have been 85 cases of the hospital 'super-bug' MRSA at two Buckinghamshire hospitals since January 2002. Figures disclosed under the FOI Act show that there were 23 reported cases in 2002, 32 in 2003, 25 in 2004 and five up to March of this year. The trust was recently ranked as having the tenth lowest rate of MRSA in the country among the 45 comparable specialist trusts.</p>	6.6.05	Bucks Free Press	http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/localnews/display.var.603180.0.wersquare_not_complacent_on_mrsa_say_hospital.php		MRSA
<p>Hospital MRSA rates are released Requests under the FOI Act have led to the release of figures detailing MRSA rates in Wales' hospitals. Ceredigion has the lowest infection rate, with one case of MRSA per 33,000 bed days, whilst Swansea is one of the worst statistically, with one case in every 5,500 bed days. The data was released with the caveat that a number of variables make the figures difficult to interpret.</p>	3.2.05	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/4234741.stm	Welsh Assembly Government	MRSA
<p>Hidden infant toll of MRSA The number of children infected with MRSA over the past five years at Great Ormond Street Hospital stands at 20, according to figures released under the FOI Act. Of those found to have the infection in their bloodstream, 16 recovered and four died, with MRSA definitely contributing to one of the deaths.</p>	10.4.05	The Sunday Times		Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	MRSA
<p>MRSA rises despite new hospital routine The number of patients contracting MRSA at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge increased after new cleaning procedures were introduced to combat the bug. Alcohol gel handwash was introduced in July 2004 and more rigorous cleaning was introduced that autumn. But MRSA bloodstream infections only fell by 3 cases, from 126 in 2003-4 to 123 in 2004-5 and the number of MRSA-positive patients - not all of whom had bloodstream infections - actually increased the month after the new procedures. In September, when cleaning was improved, there were 86 new MRSA-positive patients, which rose to 104 in October.</p>	24.6.05	Cambridge Evening News		Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	MRSA

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<p>Flagship hospital 'hit by barrage of changes' A "barrage of changes" hitting the NHS caused the sharp downturn in the financial fortunes of a flagship foundation hospital, according to a report released under the FOI Act. Bradford Teaching Hospitals went from projecting a £2.4m surplus to facing a deficit of around £11m, but the report claims that "no one problem" is to blame.</p>	31.1.05	Financial Times	http://news.ft.com/cms/s/255802dc-732d-11d9-86a0-00000e2511c8.html	Monitor – Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts	NHS
<p>New concern over prisoners' blood Scottish prisoners were being asked to donate blood until 1984 despite concerns that the practice was unsafe, according to minutes released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The documents come from meetings of Scottish Blood Transfusion Service managers in the early 1980's.</p>	24.1.05	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/4201253.stm	Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service	NHS
<p>Documents show blood product risk was kept from haemophiliacs Documents uncovered by the BBC's Frontline Scotland programme suggest doctors knew the risk to haemophiliacs from infected blood products, but did not tell patients until years later. Since the 1980s hundreds of haemophiliacs in Scotland have contracted Hepatitis C and HIV from contaminated blood. Reports obtained by the programme under the FOI (Scotland) Act also reveal that the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service decided against putting a warning on Factor VIII, given to haemophiliacs to stop clotting, because it "was likely to cause unnecessary stress to patients."</p>	1.6.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/health.cfm?id=598562005	Scottish Executive	NHS
<p>Big increase in HIV-positive blood donors is revealed The number of HIV positive blood donors has increased to the highest level for 16 years, according to papers released under the FOI Act. The rise means that the chance of contaminated blood reaching patients needing transfusions has doubled. In 2003, 42 people who gave blood were found to be carrying the virus in England and Wales. In 2002 two HIV-infected donations were used in transfusions.</p>	16.2.05	The Independent	http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/health_medical/article11366.ece	National Blood Service	NHS

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<p>Weekend pay makes GP rich as footballer GPs can earn up to £180 an hour for treating patients in the evening, overnight and at weekends, figures disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act have revealed. One GP in Dumfries and Galloway made £6,500 for a week's work out of hours over Christmas. The payments are particularly high in rural areas. NHS Highland, which covers 10,000 square miles, has set aside £5.7 million a year for out-of-hours provision. Its rates range from £50 to £75 an hour.</p>	<p>29.7.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-210-1673119,00.html</p>	<p>Various Scottish health boards</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>The True cost of caring The cost of running doctors' out-of-hours services in Staffordshire has been disclosed under the FOI Act. Moorlands Primary Care Trust looks after a population of 106,000 and pays North Staffordshire Urgent Care, a GP co-operative, £600,000 a year.</p>	<p>13.5.05</p>	<p>The Sentinel</p>		<p>Staffordshire Moorlands Primary Care Trust, Staffordshire Ambulance Service</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>£1m-a-year practice adds to dental row A Leicestershire dental practice is earning nearly £1m in fees for treating NHS patients, it has been revealed. The unnamed practice is listed as one of the UK's 50 biggest-earning practices in a league table disclosed by the Dental Practice Board under the FOI Act. The six dentists at the practice earn £165,272 a year - a share of £991,632 claimed for NHS work.</p>	<p>8.11.05</p>	<p>Leicester Mercury</p>	<p>http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=132407&command=displayContent&sourceNode=132390&contentPK=13456616&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarsearch</p>	<p>Dental Practice Board for England and Wales</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Dentists in NHS 'on £250k salaries' A top 50 list of the highest earnings by NHS dental practices has been released under the FOI Act. Top of the list is a surgery in the West Midlands with 26 dentists, which took £2.2m in gross fees in 2004. Six dentists at a practice in Essex took £1.6m in fees, equivalent to £267,732 each before overheads were taken into account. But the most successful practice is run by two principal dentists in West Yorkshire, which took £1.4m in fees.</p>	<p>30.10.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1849379,00.html</p>	<p>Dental Practice Board</p>	<p>NHS</p>

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<p>Hospitals death rates The Guardian newspaper has used the FOI Act to obtain data about the individual mortality rates of cardiac surgeons in the NHS. The data showed all heart surgeons except one were within the limits of acceptability defined by the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons. In the case of the one outlier, there were serious questions surrounding the data collected by the trust. The investigation showed that some Hospitals found difficulty in collating accurate, risk-assessed data concerning individual surgeons.</p>	<p>16.3.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1438567,00.html</p>	<p>Various NHS trusts</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Positive news for cardiac patients Fatality rates for heart surgery in Newcastle hospitals have been made available under the FOI Act. Between 2001 and 2004, 2287 of the 2348 people who had first-time bypass surgery survived and 278 of the 289 having first-time aortic valve replacements survived. The hospitals also disclosed death rates for individual surgeons, but surgeons have warned that these are of limited use, as they do not take into account variables such as the relative risk of individual cases.</p>	<p>21.2.05</p>	<p>Evening Chronicle - Newcastle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=15214519%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Heart deaths up to seven times higher with some surgeons The first NHS trusts have published surgeons' death rates in response to Freedom of Information requests. The figures show death rates of up to 8% after all types of cardiac surgery and more than 5% after coronary bypass surgery. However, some of figures do not take account of risk, making comparisons between surgeons difficult. St George's Healthcare NHS Trust claimed to be the first in London to publish details for its five surgeons on its website. The results show that Robin Kanagasabay, 39, has the lowest death rate.</p>	<p>14.2.05</p>	<p>The Independent</p>		<p>Various NHS trusts</p>	<p>NHS</p>

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<p>Row over incomplete heart surgeons' death rates Scotland's two largest health boards have released mortality rates for individual heart surgeons under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The Lothian and Greater Glasgow figures were compiled over three years and detail 'success' rates for surgeons carrying out coronary bypass grafts and aortic valve replacements. Health authorities advise that such data should be treated with caution because it doesn't factor-in the varying levels of risk and complexity of individual cases.</p>	<p>4.3.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/health.cfm?id=238232005</p>	<p>Lothian NHS Board, Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>QoF data to be published online Quality and Outcome Framework data measuring the achievement of individual GP practices will be published online from the end of August 2005. The decision was announced in revised guidance on the FOI Act from the British Medical Association's GP committee. The guidance states: "Once this information is published, practices will not need to disclose this information themselves under the Freedom of Information Act and can refer the enquirer to the appropriate website."</p>	<p>30.8.05</p>	<p>E-Health Insider</p>	<p>http://www.ehiprimarycare.com/news/item.cfm?ID=1397</p>		<p>NHS</p>
<p>NHS debts soar to over £1bn Hospitals and primary care trusts have run up an estimated total debt of £1 billion. Documents released under the FOI Act reveal the extent of financial crisis facing some trusts. Among the documents is a letter from an independent auditor, which says that health services in Surrey and Sussex did "not appear to have established sufficient arrangements by November 2004 to maintain sound financial standing in 2004/5."</p>	<p>24.4.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/04/24/nhs24.xml&sSheet=/portal/2005/04/24/ixportal.html</p>	<p>NHS trusts</p>	<p>NHS</p>

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<p>Hit squads to tackle £900m NHS deficit The Department of Health has published returns forecasting a collective overspend by NHS trusts of £623m in the 2005-6 financial year. The figures show that a quarter of trusts are forecasting deficits totalling £948m in 2005/6. Surpluses in other parts of the NHS are expected to be £325m, leaving a net deficit of £623m. A spokesman said 37 organisations were responsible for two-thirds of the gross deficit.</p>	<p>2.12.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1655869,00.html?gusrc=rss</p>	<p>Department of Health</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Battle to head off health funding crisis Papers relating to the renegotiation of a Private Finance Initiative in Norwich show that local health executives lobbied for immediate access to the moneys raised by the deal. The documents, released under the FOI Act, suggest there were concerns within Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Trusts about impending financial difficulties.</p>	<p>2.4.05</p>	<p>Eastern Daily Press</p>	<p>http://new.edp24.co.uk/content/news/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&tBrand=edponline&tCategory=news&itemid=NOED31%20Mar%202005%2008%3A54%3A00%3A890</p>	<p>Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Report sums up cost of new hospital Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital has disclosed agreements covering the Private Finance Initiative scheme to build Norfolk's flagship hospital. The documents, released under the FOI Act, cover the contracts between the health trust and Octagon Healthcare, the private consortium that built the £229m hospital.</p>	<p>4.2.05</p>	<p>Eastern Daily Press</p>	<p>http://new.edp24.co.uk/content/news/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&tBrand=edponline&tCategory=news&itemid=NOED03%20Feb%202005%2019%3A04%3A02%3A993</p>	<p>Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Row over hospital bill to go private A troubled hospital with £12m debts has spent more than £2m on sending patients for private treatment, documents show. The Good Hope Hospital in Sutton Coldfield which has been in the red since 2002, spent £150,000 sending patients to Little Aston private hospital in 2004, and £1.3m the year before.</p>	<p>9.11.05</p>	<p>Birmingham Mail</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/mail/news/tm_objectid=16349732%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust</p>	<p>NHS</p>

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<p>Milburn attacked over hospital move ruling Correspondence relating to the decision by the former Health Secretary Alan Milburn to delay the transfer of patient services from Crawley hospital to the East Surrey district hospital has been released under the FOI Act. Milburn's intervention, shortly before the 2001 general election, followed lobbying by local Labour MP Laura Moffat and reversed an earlier decision to go-ahead with the scheme. The trust has since run up large debts - and has a £20m deficit - partly because it had to run services on two sites for a longer than anticipated.</p>	18.3.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1440489,00.html		NHS
<p>New twist in hospital saga The Government labelled plans for the permanent closure of Wells Hospital in Norfolk "politically unacceptable" before the council made its decision last month, according to papers released under the FOI Act. One document said "plans for significant changes to provider services...were dropped after advice from the SHA/DoH that these would be politically unacceptable." Two weeks later the North Norfolk Primary Care Trust said that permanent closure "was not an option", prompting accusations of political "meddling" by the government in the run-up to the general election.</p>	22.2.05	Eastern Daily Press		North Norfolk Primary Care Trust	NHS
<p>'Surgery may be cancelled' Medical directors at two Newcastle hospitals petitioned their Primary Care Trust over fears that the uncertain future of a third hospital might have a detrimental impact on frontline services. Papers released under the FOI Act show that the petition warned of 'unmanageable pressures' should Walkergate hospital be closed for the transfer and rehabilitation of very ill patients.</p>	7.5.05	The Journal - Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/thejournal/news/journalnews/tm_objectid=15496617%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	NHS

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<p>Grim diagnosis for Scots NHS Information on cancer waiting times in Scotland indicates the Scottish Executive target that by 2005 the maximum wait for treatment would be 2 months, is not being met. The information, disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act, shows that around one third of lung cancer sufferers and about 15 per cent of those with ovarian and colorectal cancers had to wait longer than 2 months. Overall, in the four cancer types, some 211 people waited more than two months for treatment. The disclosure also revealed a lack of data to accurately monitor the target. North Glasgow, for example, was unable to supply figures for lung cancer patients.</p>	14.6.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=651542005	Scottish Executive	NHS
<p>Targeted health board one of the best NHS Argyll and Clyde, which the Scottish Executive has ordered to be abolished, is one of Scotland's best performing health boards. Data obtained under the FOI (Scotland) Act shows that the board cut waiting times for operations ahead of most other authorities, beat targets for reducing bed blocking and has below average rates for MRSA.</p>	8.9.05	The Herald	http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/46577.html	NHS Argyll and Clyde	NHS
<p>NHS bosses say sorry for blocking information NHS Greater Glasgow has disclosed papers detailing how new consultants' pay deals would affect city hospitals. The information was initially cut from files obtained through the FOI (Scotland) Act but disclosed following a review.</p>	7.4.05	Glasgow Evening Times	http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/hi/news/5037421.html	NHS Greater Glasgow	NHS
<p>Safety concern at three Leeds centres Inspections of three mental health units in Leeds found a catalogue of problems with their design and construction, documents obtained under the FOI Act show. According to one report, the units were built without proper fire protection materials in their wall and floor joints. It was thought the walls could withstand fire for up to 30 minutes, but actually they had only nominal fire resistance. Another study found that if fire broke out staff were taught to leave patients in their rooms. The units were built under the Private Finance Initiative at a cost of £47m.</p>	3.9.05	Evening Post	http://www.leadstoday.net/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=39&ArticleID=1135356	Leeds Mental Health Trust	NHS

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<p>N&N staff act to stamp out blunders Staff at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital reported 64 medical mishaps in the two years from October 2003 to September 2005. The mistakes, revealed for the first time in response to a FOI request, include 45 drug mix-ups, patients being mistaken for someone else, a patient accidentally burned during surgery, an incorrect breast biopsy diagnosis and an undetected fracture. The Hospital's chief executive said "What we have tried to encourage at the hospital is an environment of openness, where people don't think they are going to get hammered for admitting a mistake."</p>	<p>15.11.05</p>	<p>East Anglian Daily Times</p>		<p>Norfolk and Norwich University</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Revealed: how hospitals hide their blunders Scottish hospitals are paying out millions of pounds in compensation in secret out of court settlements. Responses to Freedom of Information requests from Scotland's 15 health boards, reveal that £8.3 million was paid out in 2004/05 and £8m in 2003/04. However, the boards refused to disclose details of individual cases.</p>	<p>30.10.05</p>	<p>Scotland on Sunday</p>	<p>http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=2167942005</p>	<p>Scottish health boards</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Revealed...the blunders made by our hospitals Medical mishaps at hospitals in the North-East have been disclosed for the first time under the FOI Act. They include one patient at Wansbeck Hospital being given an injection intended for someone in the next bed. Another patient at North Tyneside General Hospital had to wait four hours for a bed before being sent home with the wrong medication when the bed was given to someone else. Another patient from Wansbeck was discharged in severe pain after a strangulated testicle was misdiagnosed.</p>	<p>20.9.05</p>	<p>Newcastle Evening Chronicle</p>	<p>http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16153420%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html</p>	<p>North-East hospital trusts</p>	<p>NHS</p>

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<p>Bogus doctor enters ward A mentally ill woman entered the rehabilitation ward at St Luke's Hospital in Harborough by convincing security staff she was a doctor. Police were called at 3.33am and arrested the woman for a public order offence. She has since been sectioned under the Mental Health Act. The incident which happened on 4 December 2004 was classed as a "serious adverse event", details of which have been disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	<p>18.8.05</p>	<p>Harborough Today</p>	<p>http://www.harboroughtoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=760&ArticleID=1117689</p>	<p>St Luke's Hospital//Melton, Rutland and Harborough Primary Care Trust</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Seven doctors suspended in last five years Seven doctors including three senior medics have been suspended in Northern Ireland in the last five years, it has been revealed. They include two GPs, one junior doctor, three consultants and one other hospital doctor. Details of the suspensions were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	<p>26.4.05</p>	<p>Belfast Telegraph</p>			<p>NHS</p>
<p>NHS continues open source software trials The NHS in England will continue to test free-to-use "open source" software, Connecting for Health confirmed in response to a FOI request. The agency, which manages the £6.2bn national programme for IT, said that none of its prime contractors were providing solutions based on Linux, the open source operating system, but that this was "likely to change in due course".</p>	<p>15.7.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://society.guardian.co.uk/internet/story/0,,1529419,00.html</p>	<p>Connecting for Health</p>	<p>NHS</p>

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<p>Skills shortage raises threat of suppliers' claims against NHS The NHS is in danger of not meeting commitments under multibillion-pound contracts signed under the National Programme for IT, according to papers released under the FOI Act. The contracts bind the NHS to loan about 200 staff free of charge to computer companies, to help them make a success of NPfIT. But local NHS organisations have been unable to provide sufficient people. The documents show that some trusts are calculating the potential costs of meeting claims for compensation for not supplying staff. One paper released by South Devon Primary Care Trust said, "Take up of the supplier attachment scheme has been slow to date, raising concerns about the financial impact on the Cluster, and its constituent organisations."</p>	<p>14.3.05</p>	<p>Computer Weekly</p>		<p>NHS organisations</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Abortions for under-15s top 1,000 Figures detailing the number of abortions given to girls under 15 in 2003 have been released under the FOI Act. More than 1000 abortions were carried out on girls aged 14 and under. There were 148 abortions performed on girls aged 11, 12 and 13, with 1,023 on girls aged 14.</p>	<p>20.2.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>		<p>Department of Health</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Hospital admits abortion at 34 weeks Requests made under the FOI (Scotland) Act have revealed the stages at which late abortions on abnormal fetuses have been carried out by some of Scotland's health boards. The latest abortion was carried out at 34 weeks.</p>	<p>10.4.05</p>	<p>Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=378472005</p>	<p>Scottish health boards</p>	<p>NHS</p>
<p>Concern as girls of 11 get contraceptives Family planning clinics in Northern Ireland treated 708 girls under 16 last year, figures disclosed under the FOI Act show. No central information is held on how young the patients were, but a family planning clinic source confirmed children as young as 11 were treated. The breakdown by board for the year ending March 2003 for treatment of under 16 year old girls was 421 in the Eastern area, 102 in the Northern, 65 in Southern and 86 in Western.</p>	<p>27.9.05</p>	<p>Newsletter - Belfast</p>	<p>http://www.newsletter.co.uk/story/2871</p>		<p>NHS</p>

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<p>Secret ruling on 'designer babies' The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has ruled that bone marrow from "designer babies" can be used to treat sick siblings, according to files released under the FOI Act. Previously this was not permitted because it was believed to be an "invasive" and painful procedure over which the baby has no control. The rule change, however, came last year with the suggestion that the transplant was a "relatively routine treatment strategy".</p>	7.3.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-210-1514740,00.html	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	NHS
<p>Atomic power station breaches 'desperately worrying' There were 45 security breaches reported last year to the Office for Civil Nuclear Security, the nuclear security watchdog, including unauthorised access to a nuclear power station and the theft of sensitive materials. According to documents released under the FOI Act, most incidents resulted from human error, including eight classified as "failure of security leading to unacceptable or undesirable consequences".</p>	10.2.05	Financial Times	http://news.ft.com/cms/s/b9b40730-7b0e-11d9-a3ea-00000e2511c8.html	Department of Trade and Industry	Nuclear
<p>Revealed: the safety 'failures' at Dounreay There have been more than 250 safety "failures" at Dounreay since 1999, documents show. Many of the problems have never been reported before. They include the radioactive contamination of whelks, winkles, rabbits, concrete, soil, water, air and beaches. The list includes 18 incidents in the first 3 months of 2005, including an "abnormal" radioactive discharge from a stack, the contamination of grass with caesium-137 and a spill of radioactive caustic soda.</p>	15.5.05	The Sunday Herald	http://www.sundayherald.com/49762	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	Nuclear

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<p>Privatising nuclear clean-up risks public safety Plans to privatise the clean up of nuclear sites could put public safety at risk, according to advice released under the FOI Act. The government's nuclear safety advisors have expressed "serious concerns" that financial pressures will prompt private contractors to cut corners. The government wants the management of at least half the sites put out to competitive tender by the end of 2008.</p>	19.2.05	New Scientist	http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=mg18524874.500	HSE	Nuclear
<p>Dounreay chiefs played down major blast at plant An explosion in Dounreay's waste shaft, one of the most serious incidents in the site's history, was dismissed as a "minor incident" by senior staff at the time, papers show. A press release issued on the day of the blast in 1977, explained that a chemical reaction, probably involving 2.5kg of sodium had occurred adding "No injury occurred, damage was minor and the public was not involved." However papers show the explosion caused extensive damage with pieces of asbestos discovered up to 75 metres away.</p>	14.7.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=1071022005	UK Atomic Energy Authority	Nuclear
<p>Major safety flaws uncovered at Torness plant An accident at Torness nuclear power station in 2002 described at the time by British Energy as "vibration problems" was far more serious according to the official investigation. The accident began when reactor two automatically shut down because it detected a flaw in its cooling system. Operators made a serious mistake and a gas circulator meant to keep the reactor cool was badly damaged. Alarms sounded, a temperature gauge went "off-scale" and 750 litres of oil went missing. A report by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, released under the FOI Act, criticised managers at Torness for staff cutbacks, and for failing to give safety a high enough priority.</p>	26.6.05	The Sunday Herald	http://www.sundayherald.com/50446		Nuclear

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<p>Radioactive waste at Royals' beach Radioactive deposits washed up on Dunnet beach near the Queen Mother's former Scottish home were not reported by the management of the decommissioned Dounreay reactor, according to a response to an FOI request. The findings prompted Mike O'Brien then Energy minister to admit that safety standards at Dounreay had been unacceptable and measures taken to protect the environment had been ineffective.</p>	15.3.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1437826,00.html	UK Atomic Energy Authority	Nuclear
<p>Nuclear Power British Energy's decision to close its Peel Park headquarters in East Kilbride triggered a severe staffing crisis that could have put safety at risk, according to documents disclosed under the FOI (Scotland) Act. A report by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate in December 2004 concluded "British Energy's intent to close Peel Park, and the consequential impact, has had an adverse effect on the staff with respect to stress, morale and uncertainty over their future".</p>	15.5.05	Sunday Herald	http://www.sundayherald.com/49775	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate	Nuclear
<p>Thorp 'shut till March' Documents obtained under the FOI Act reveal that Sellafield's Thorp re-processing plant will not re-open before March 2006. The plant was shut in April 2005 after 22 tonnes of radioactive liquor leaked into a contained cell, but it was expected to re-open around Christmas. The delay means the plant will have lost a year's revenue. The documents also reveal that the leaked liquor has been recovered and is being stored until the plant re-opens, despite concern that it will be contaminated.</p>	6.10.05	Whitehaven News	http://www.whitehaven-news.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=288883	Nuclear Installations Inspectorate	Nuclear

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<p>Core cracks may force shutdown of UK reactors Reactors at many of the UK's nuclear power stations are in danger of developing cracks in their graphite cores up to two years earlier than expected, according to documents revealed under the FOI Act. In August of last year British Energy, which runs the reactors, warned the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of "possible errors" in the computer models used to predict the onset of cracking. Widespread cracking could cause the core to distort, overheat and leak radiation. Monitoring the cores may now mean shutting down reactors more often and for longer periods.</p>	<p>26.3.05</p>	<p>New Scientist</p>		<p>Health and Safety Executive</p>	<p>Nuclear</p>
<p>Veil to be lifted on new nuclear waste sites A list of sites identified as potential locations where nuclear waste could be stored, will be published after almost 20 years. Nirex, the independent body which regulates Britain's nuclear waste, decided to publish the shortlist in response to FOI requests. The list was originally drawn up in 1989 at the beginning of a 10-year process to find places to bury nuclear waste, but the project was shelved in 1997 when the then environment secretary, John Gummer, rejected Nirex's proposal to build an underground storage bunker at Sellafield because of doubts over whether the local geology was suitable. Nuclear waste is currently stored in more than 30 temporary sites.</p>	<p>29.5.05</p>	<p>The Independent on Sunday</p>		<p>Nirex</p>	<p>Nuclear</p>
<p>Nuclear waste sites list revealed A list of sites across the UK considered for the dumping of nuclear waste has been disclosed under the FOI Act. Nirex, the government owned company set up to implement a nuclear waste disposal strategy, published the information on its website following an FOI request. The short-list includes two sites in Essex and five in Scotland. The government is due to begin site selection again in 2007, after the process fell off the agenda in 1997.</p>	<p>10.6.05</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4079558.stm</p>	<p>NIREX</p>	<p>Nuclear</p>

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<p>Traffic wardens in 'Argos points for tickets' row An incentive scheme run by National Car Parks includes Argos points for traffic wardens who achieve "particular targets or agreed standards", according to documents released under the FOI Act. The targets include "issued number of tickets per shift/day" and contributing to "increased revenue or cost savings". Other papers also released under the Act reveal that one traffic warden based in Westminster issued 1,444 tickets in October 2004.</p>	10.4.05	The Sunday Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-523-1562367,00.html	Westminster Council	Parking
<p>Car-park fees timebomb Car parking charges in the St Albans district will dramatically increase under a 10-year contract between the district council and NCP, it has emerged. The fee for up to 30 minutes is set to rise from 30p at the beginning of the agreement to 70p by the 10th year. The one-hour fee will increase from 50p to £1.30 in the same period, while that for two hours will soar from 80p to £2.60 - well over 300 per cent. When the new contract came into force at the beginning of 2005, the council refused to give details of the charging structure. But under the FOI Act, it decided to release the information.</p>	7.7.05	The Herts Advertiser	http://www.hertsad.co.uk/content/herts/news/story.aspx?brand=hadonline&category=news&tBrand=herts24&tCategory=newshertsad&itemid=WEEED07%20Jul%202005%2011%3A23%3A49%3A430	St Albans District Council	Parking
<p>Council cashing in on its parking fees Parking fees and fines cost motorists more than £8 million in Cambridge last year, figures show. The total income from parking in the city between April 2004-5 was £8,147,000, of which £6,700,000 went to the city council and £1,447,000 to the county council, which receives the income from on-street and residents' parking.</p>	30.8.05	Cambridge Evening News	http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/city/2005/08/30/0c11c6e5-332f-4a2a-a5f9-0c768ff91b0f.lpf	Cambridge City Council	Parking
<p>£334,000...is the staggering sum taken in parking fines last year on Britain's most warden-infested street 400-yard-long Alum Rock Road in Birmingham attracted £346,000 in parking fines in 2004. Figures released under the FOI Act show that wardens gave out 5,577 tickets on the road.</p>	13.3.05	The Sunday Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/03/13/nfine13.xml	Birmingham City Council	Parking

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<p>700 parking tickets handed out a week Figures released by South Wales Police under the Freedom of Information Act show that 36,881 fixed penalty notices were handed out in Cardiff last year - more than double the next highest in the force's area. Police also gave details of 10 key city streets where tickets were issued. St Mary Street - which frequently sees buses held up by illegal parkers - saw 944 tickets dished out, with more than 1,000 slapped on vehicles in The Hayes and adjoining Hills Street.</p>	<p>1.9.05</p>	<p>South Wales Echo</p>		<p>South Wales Police</p>	<p>Parking</p>
<p>Police win parking reprieve around HQ Lothian and Borders police appear to have won a concession from Edinburgh transport chiefs over plans to introduce parking restrictions around their headquarters. Documents disclosed following an FOI request reveal the extent of the force's lobbying and a deal that appears to have been reached. The area around the Fettes HQ is now likely to be one of the last where parking restrictions inside a new zone are brought in, and only if there is a "clear" need and demand from residents and businesses.</p>	<p>18.5.06</p>	<p>Edinburgh Evening News</p>	<p>http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=542902005</p>		<p>Parking</p>
<p>Rules to prevent party donors buying Peerages 'weakened' The criteria for deciding whether donors to political parties have legitimately been nominated for a peerage have potentially been weakened. The House of Lords Appointments Commission previously decided to be certain that the donor would have been nominated anyway. However according to minutes released to the BBC's Politics Show in March of last year the committee agreed that a donor need only be judged "a credible nominee regardless of the donation".</p>	<p>20.3.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>		<p>House of Lords</p>	<p>Parliament</p>

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<p>Commons thieves walk off with MPs' valuables – and a sandwich The Houses of Parliament suffer an average of a theft a week, with £150,000 worth of valuables stolen in the past four years. The crime figures, released under the FOI Act, reveal that items taken include computers, solar panels and a £2 sandwich. They also show that in 2003-04 333 knives were seized by police at the entrance to Parliament along with 52 gas canisters, two batons and a knuckle-duster.</p>	<p>27.3.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/news/paper/0,,176-1543378,00.html</p>	<p>House of Commons House of Lords</p>	<p>Parliament</p>
<p>Are we having a feast or famine? The Western Mail used the Freedom of Information Act to obtain statistics that it assessed against the Welsh government's own targets for education, the economy, health and quality of life. The aim was to give a rough view of how Rhodri Morgan has performed as First Minister.</p>	<p>8.2.05</p>	<p>Western Mail</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/newspolitics/tm_objectid=15165611&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=are-we-having-a-feast-or-famine--name_page.html</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly Government</p>	<p>Performance targets</p>
<p>Beagle 2, cock-ups and conspiracy The report of the inquiry into the loss of Beagle 2, the Mars lander, has been disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act. The report, jointly commissioned by the UK government and the European Space Agency, shows that the project was beset by misjudgements from the start.</p>	<p>12.2.05</p>	<p>New Scientist</p>	<p>http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=mg18524863.300&print=true</p>	<p>Department of Trade and Industry</p>	<p>Pets</p>
<p>Humphrey...the Downing Street dossier The disclosure of Whitehall files on Humphrey the cat offer fresh insight into the whereabouts of what is, one would presume, the only feline civil servant in history. The cat arrived at the Cabinet Office in 1989 as a one-year-old stray. After Labour's 1997 victory, Humphrey disappeared from view following a memo that suggested he needed a "stable home environment where he can be looked after properly".</p>	<p>14.3.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>		<p>Cabinet Office</p>	<p>Pets</p>

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<p>'Poodles' in Cardiff accept all rail cuts' Documents revealing the process of negotiating rail franchises in Wales suggest that the Welsh Assembly Government put up little resistance to cuts in subsidy and capital investment imposed by the Strategic Rail Authority in 2003. Papers released under the FOI Act show that an Assembly Government official said the plans were "fine" and that they had "no further aspirations" following decisions to reject 22 new trains and to cut rail subsidies by more than 16%..</p>	25.6.05	Western Mail	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15665172%26method=full%26siteid=50082-name_page.html	Welsh Assembly Government	Pets
<p>Phone mast shock for county There are more than 300 phone masts scattered around Shropshire, according to data released under the FOI Act. They can be found on schools, hospitals, farms and business.</p>	18.6.05	Shropshire Star	Http://www.shropshirestar.com/show_article.php?aID=34269	Shropshire councils	Phone masts
<p>March of the phone masts Around 100 sites in Birmingham have been earmarked by phone companies for new phone masts, according to planning documents released under the Freedom of Information Act. A further 91 sites are being looked into by 'T-Mobile' and '3', as mobile phone companies continue the roll-out of 'third generation' technology.</p>	7.3.05	Evening Mail - Birmingham	http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15266997&method=full&siteid=50002&headline=march-of-the-phone-masts-name_page.html	Birmingham City Council	Phone masts
<p>176 masts in Barking and Dagenham The telecommunications register for the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has been disclosed following an FOI request. The document shows there are 176 mobile phone masts in the Borough. There are more than 9 antennae on Kilsby Walk a sheltered housing scheme in Lodge Avenue and more than 12 on the roof of the Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust's HQ. St Albans Church in Dagenham even has a mobile phone mast hidden in its bell tower.</p>	24.8.05	Barking and Dagenham Post	http://www.bdpost.co.uk/content/barkinganddagenham/post/news/story.aspx?brand=BDPOnline&category=news&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newsbdp&itemid=WeED24%20Aug%202005%2010%3A17%3A35%3A163	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	Phone masts

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<p>Drivers immobilised by signals from phone masts Mobile-phone masts and radio transmitters interfere with car locking systems and immobilisers, blocking the signal from keyfobs and potentially disabling cars. According to briefing documents released under the FOI Act, the problem has existed for “some years”, and has been exacerbated by the introduction of the high-powered police digital radio system Tetra.</p>	<p>12.3.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-2-1521226,00.html</p>	<p>Department of Trade and Industry</p>	<p>Phone masts</p>
<p>Designers knew fountain would be slippery Planners for the Diana Memorial in Kensington Gardens were aware at an early stage that it would not be advisable to have people “travelling through the water”. Information released by the Culture Department under the FOI Act also details the costs of the project, including the amount spent on repair since the fountain’s opening.</p>	<p>13.4.05</p>	<p>Evening Standard</p>	<p>http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/londonnews/articles/17890261?source=Evening%20Standard</p>	<p>Department for Culture Media and Sport</p>	<p>Planning</p>
<p>Executive poised to take house plan battle to court The Northern Ireland Housing Executive was prepared to take out a court injunction to stop a property development by Belfast’s Deputy Lord Mayor, papers show. Sinn Fein councillor, Joe O’Donnell, planned to build three new townhouses on land he bought from the Executive for £1,000 on the condition it became part of his garden. One document states that the Executive wrote to Mr O’Donnell’s solicitors “and put them on notice that, if the development was commenced, we would issue an injunction to have the development stopped.”</p>	<p>14.2.05</p>	<p>Belfast Telegraph</p>		<p>Housing Executive (NI)</p>	<p>Planning</p>

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<p>Officials 'could have saved allotments' Valuable allotments set to become a practice golf range could have been saved had legal advice been followed, documents show. Birmingham City Council's attempts to block Moseley Golf Club from developing the Billesley Lane Allotments ended in failure in January 2003 when an application to compulsory purchase the land was rejected. At the time council officers claimed that legal advice suggested a further challenge to the plans would be fruitless. But an email written in March 2003 by Moseley councillor Bryan Nott, one of only a handful of people to see the advice, describes the council's decision to back down as "devastatingly wrong". "I would conclude that there is at least a reasonable prospect that a fresh inquiry might result in a different outcome", he said.</p>	<p>26.12.05</p>	<p>Birmingham Post</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/birminghampost/news/tm_objectid=16521409%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council</p>	<p>Planning</p>
<p>Paradise Circus secrets revealed A 2003 feasibility report into a £1bn redevelopment of Paradise Circus in Birmingham warned that the project would be financially fragile and private investors would be hard to attract. The report, released under the FOI Act, stated "it will be extremely difficult to obtain a development partner to finance this project." Planners have since admitted that the development is unlikely to result in any upfront profit for the council.</p>	<p>7.2.05</p>	<p>Birmingham Post</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/post/news/tm_objectid=15161768%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council</p>	<p>Planning</p>
<p>Council considered car park underneath square Glasgow city council considered placing a large car park underneath George Square in the heart of the city, according to documents released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The documents reveal that plans for the continental-inspired car park were ultimately shelved because the costs were too high.</p>	<p>18.2.05</p>	<p>The Herald</p>	<p>http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/smgpubs/794988191.html?did=794988191&FMT=ABS&FMTS=FT&date=Feb+18%2C+2005&author=STEPHEN+STEWART&pub=The+Herald&desc=Council+considered+car+park+underneath+square</p>	<p>Glasgow City Council</p>	<p>Planning</p>

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<p>Wellow prepares challenge to social housing scheme A controversial housing development in a Hampshire village, which has caused protests from local residents, may be enlarged in the future according to documents released under the FOI Act. Test Valley Borough Council and Western Challenge Housing Association discussed plans to double the size of the scheme in July and August 2004, a move that would see more of the surrounding countryside developed into affordable homes.</p>	28.1.05	ThisisHampshire.net		Test Valley Borough Council	Planning
<p>'Vibrant river front' is proposed for Carlisle A report disclosed under the FOI Act has revealed plans to make Carlisle's Viaduct Estate a "vibrant river frontage". The idea forms part of a wider drive to explore potential development sites on river banks around Carlisle, which the report claims would lead to "gentrification" and might "provide a completely new perception and image of Carlisle city centre".</p>	1.2.05	News and Star - Carlisle	http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=176654	Carlisle City Council	Planning
<p>The true cost of Magdalen Street flyover A flyover project in Norwich cost £1.4m, double the original projected figure, according to documents released under the FOI Act. The files also reveal a breakdown in relations between the council and the building contractors, which resulted in a halting of work due to council concerns over safety.</p>	20.2.05	Eastern Daily Press	http://new.edp24.co.uk/content/news/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&tBrand=edponline&tCategory=news&itemid=NOED20%20Feb%202005%2018%3A52%3A04%3A787	Norwich City Council	Planning

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<p>Met chief wanted Army rules for police Letters exchanged between the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the Home Office immediately after police mistakenly shot dead an innocent man at Stockwell tube station have been disclosed under the FOI Act. The correspondence confirms that the Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, sought to delay an investigation into the incident by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. Writing to Sir John Gieve, permanent secretary at the Home Office, Sir Ian said "I believe that in a fast-moving, multi-site terrorist situation, in which suicide bombers are clearly a very strong possibility, a chief officer of police should be able to suspend section 17 [of the Police Reform Act 2002]". In reply, Sir John said he did not believe section 17 could be suspended.</p>	<p>1.10.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/10/01/nterr01.xml</p>	<p>Metropolitan Police Authority</p>	<p>Policing</p>
<p>Police misconduct revealed in figures Twenty-seven police officers in Coventry and Warwickshire have been subject to disciplinary action in the past year. Fourteen officers from Coventry were disciplined, including two charged with criminal offences. The remaining 12 were charged for offences relating to conduct, performance of duties and integrity. Thirteen officers in Warwickshire were charged with formal misconduct, with one officer from Rugby "required to resign" for criminal offences.</p>	<p>25.4.05</p>	<p>Coventry Evening Telegraph</p>	<p>http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15441143%26method=full%26siteid=50003-name_page.html</p>	<p>Warwickshire Police West Midlands Police</p>	<p>Policing</p>

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<p>Marksmen 'rushed' back to work Senior Metropolitan police officers changed the force's policy on suspension to allow two marksmen to return to work. Chief Inspector Neil Sharman and PC Kevin Fagan were suspended after an inquest found they had unlawfully killed Henry Stanley in 1999, but have returned to non-operational duties. Documents disclosed under the FOI Act show that the Independent Police Complaints Commission warned the new policy, would create "real difficulties" and "real problems for the public's confidence in the complaints and investigations process".</p>	<p>9.6.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/uk.cfm?id=631492005</p>	<p>Metropolitan Police</p>	<p>Policing</p>
<p>Police told 'avoid hunt arrests' Police guidelines suggest that officers do not have to arrest illegal fox hunters after the ban comes into force on 18 February 2005, but may video the hunt for future prosecution. The advice, released under the FOI Act, works on the assumption that the ban will be upheld, and stresses that decisions must be made locally, with sensitivity given to the prospect of high emotions.</p>	<p>28.1.05</p>	<p>BBC</p>	<p>http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/4215201.stm</p>		<p>Policing</p>
<p>Documents show how Special Branch infiltrated Anti-Apartheid Movement The extent of Special Branch surveillance of the Anti-Apartheid Movement in the 1980s has been revealed in documents disclosed under the FOI Act. The files document how Special Branch penetrated the movement - infiltrating meetings, recruiting informers and obtaining documents. Officers snooped its leaders including MPs, two of whom are now Labour ministers. Even the most innocuous activity was investigated. At one point, officers investigated a suburban shed containing a number of "political posters with a leftwing bias".</p>	<p>27.9.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1579082,00.html</p>	<p>Metropolitan Police</p>	<p>Policing</p>

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<p>Secret Soham murder report condemns ineptitude of police chiefs A report into the Soham murders inquiry criticised senior Cambridgeshire police officers for conducting a "poorly led investigation", not recognising they were dealing with a major incident and allowing "fundamental lines of inquiry to go unnoticed". However, the report praised the "prompt and commensurate" action of officers who responded to the first reports that Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman were missing.</p>	7.2.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2-1473818,00.html	Cambridgeshire Police	Policing
<p>4,000 police injured in line of duty Almost 4,000 police officers in South Yorkshire have been injured in the line of duty over the last five years, figures released under the FOI Act show. Of the injuries reported 1,060 officers were assaulted and 383 were hurt in road accidents. A breakdown by sex reveals that 1,265 of the injured officers were female and 2,712 men.</p>	1.11.05	The Star - Sheffield	http://www.sheffieldtoday.net/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=58&ArticleID=1239027	South Yorkshire Police	Policing
<p>2,000 police quit 'over red tape' There were 2,076 resignations from the police force in the year 2003-04, compared with 774 in 1996-7, according to data released under the FOI Act.</p>	23.4.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-18169-1581477,00.html	Home Office	Policing
<p>Anger over plans to close police stations Harlesden and Willesden Green police stations have been closed at night as part of a trial aimed at putting more officers on the streets. The closures from 10 pm until 6 am mean that Kilburn and Wembley are the only 24-hour stations in the Borough of Brent. Crime figures obtained under the FOI Act showed that Harlesden suffered more crime than any other ward last year, while Willesden Green came fourth.</p>	13.10.05	Willesden and Brent Times	http://www.wbtimes.co.uk/content/brent/willesdenchronicle/news/story.aspx?brand=WBCOnline&category=news&tBrand=northlondon24&Category=newswbc&itemid=WeED13%20Oct%202005%2013%3A45%3A39%3A200	Metropolitan Police	Policing

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<p>Met launches search for new station The future of the Grade II listed Hampstead Police Station on Rosslyn Hill is in doubt after it was revealed that surveyors have been hired to find an alternative site. A Metropolitan Police Property Services report, disclosed under the FOI Act, confirms: "SMPA are chartered surveyors and were appointed in November 2005. Their remit was to conduct a survey of available sites which would satisfy the projected policing requirements of Camden Borough for the Hampstead area."</p>	18.11.05	Ham&High	http://www.hamhigh.co.uk/content/camden/hamhigh/news/story.aspx?brand=NorthLondon24&category=Newshamhigh&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=newshamhigh&itimid=WeED17%20Nov%202005%2018%3A28%3A39%3A533	Metropolitan Police	Policing
<p>Cop call-out pubs named and shamed Police were called out 646 times to licensed premises in Wandsworth in 2004, according to figures disclosed under the FOI Act. Of these, 87% were to pubs and clubs and ten pubs accounted for 195 of the calls.</p>	7.4.05	Wimbledon Post	http://icsouthlondon.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/merton/tm_objectid=15368456&method=full&siteid=50100&headline=cop-call-out-pubs-named-and-shamed--name_page.html	Metropolitan Police	Policing
<p>Police fail to use new powers for combating 'firework jobs' Twenty-two fines were handed out on Bonfire night last year under new legislation aimed at curbing the dangerous abuse of fireworks. The data, disclosed by the Home Office under the FOI Act, shows that the four North East and North Yorkshire police forces were amongst those authorities that did not use the new punishment of an £80 fixed penalty notice.</p>	21.3.05	Thisisthenortheast.co.uk		Home Office	Policing
<p>Police want to end booze ban at Murrayfield Scottish police have backed the campaign to lift the ban on alcohol at international rugby matches at Murrayfield. In a letter to the Scottish Executive, Ian Dickinson, spokesman on licensing issues for the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, said Lothian and Borders Police supported plans to allow supporters to buy beer and wine. Rugby supporters were "markedly less associated with disorder and violence" than football fans, he said.</p>	19.11.05	Edinburgh Evening News	http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=2267652005		Policing

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<p>Crash footage released to victim A man who was run over by a police car when he was 15 has been given access to aerial footage of the incident taken by a police helicopter. Anthony Green, 22, was cycling in the Burngreave area of Sheffield in 1999. An unmarked police car tried to make him stop, but as he cycled away he was pursued and run over. Detective Andrew Lawrence admitted careless driving, was fined £250 and given five penalty points. South Yorkshire police had refused to give Mr Green access to the tape, but it has now been released under the FOI Act.</p>	16.9.05	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/south_yorkshire/4254408.stm	South Yorkshire Police	Policing
<p>Police G8 overtime bill more than £11m Policing the G8 summit in Perthshire cost Scotland's police forces more than £11m in overtime. The figures were obtained from 5 of Scotland's 8 forces under the FOI (Scotland) Act, but do not include Tayside, which led the policing of the event. Strathclyde Police spent £6.39m while Lothian and Borders Police's bill was £2.69m. However, forces expect the figures to rise as some officers have yet to put in their claims.</p>	23.9.05	The Herald		Various Scottish police forces	Policing costs
<p>City may have to share £1.5m cost of policing G8 conference The huge security operation surrounding the G8 conference in Sheffield cost £1.5m according to figures disclosed by South Yorkshire Police under the FOI Act. However, the full cost is not yet known, with bills for helping to police the conference yet to arrive from a number of other forces. Officers from 12 police forces were on duty when justice and home affairs ministers three days of talks in the city in July 2005. South Yorkshire Police said the "vast majority" of the bill would be paid for by the Home Office.</p>	1.8.05	Yorkshire Post	http://www.yorkshiretoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=55&ArticleID=1101500	South Yorkshire Police	Policing costs

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<p>Fury as police paid for Holyrood opening costs Lothian and Borders Police spent £164,000 providing security at the gala opening of Holyrood, the Scottish Parliament building. Previously, the police declined to reveal the cost, but disclosed the information following a FOI request. The force was reimbursed £217,000 by the Scottish Executive for costs it incurred on the day and leading up the event. Edinburgh City Council's bid to reclaim £123,000 for the event was turned down.</p>	2.2.05	Evening News - Edinburgh	http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=124762005	Lothian and Borders Police	Policing costs
<p>Police spent £900,000 to give Hamza street pulpit Policing the prayer meetings led by the controversial cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri in Finsbury Park, London, cost almost £900,000 according to figures released under the FOI Act. The open-air meetings, which began in January 2003 after the mosque was closed, required 12 to 18 uniformed officers, a number which rose on occasions when demonstrators threatened to disrupt the prayers.</p>	24.1.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,4484-1454393,00.html	Metropolitan Police	Policing costs
<p>Faslane protests cost taxpayer £1m Demonstrations at Faslane naval base, home of the Trident Nuclear submarine fleet, cost on average £200,000 to police, according to figures released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. MSPs disagree as to whether the figures stand as an indictment of the protestors or police tactics.</p>	4.3.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/index.cfm?id=237632005	Strathclyde Police	Policing costs
<p>Animal protests cost £10m over five years Policing animal rights protests has cost more than £10 million in the past five years, according to figures released under the FOI Act. At Huntingdon Life Sciences in Cambridgeshire, police have spent £5.4m and nearly 400,000 man-hours.</p>	28.2.05	The Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-2-1504110,00.html	Home Office	Policing costs

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<p>£38m police overtime bill Figures disclosed by South Yorkshire Police under the FOI Act, show the force spent almost £38.5m on overtime in the last five years. The figure includes around £4.5m to police football matches and just over £4m to investigate unexpected events such as murders, but the biggest chunk went on normal overtime duties such as officers working extra hours at the end of shifts.</p>	<p>12.9.05</p>	<p>The Star - Sheffield</p>	<p>http://www.sheffieldtoday.net/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=58&ArticleID=1187081</p>	<p>South Yorkshire Police</p>	<p>Policing costs</p>
<p>Taxpayers are footing bill for accused police Eleven Northumbria Police officers are currently suspended on full pay, a FOI request has revealed. Accusations against the officers include downloading child pornography, social security fraud and perverting the course of justice. Two sergeants earning £34,944, who were suspended on suspicion of indecent assault, have been on full pay for 15 months and 9 months. Figures for neighbouring forces reveal that Durham has 3 suspended officers, Lothian and Borders has two and Cleveland has one.</p>	<p>10.8.05</p>	<p>Northern Echo</p>	<p>http://archive.thisisthenortheast.co.uk/2005/8/10/203310.html</p>	<p>Northumbria Police</p>	<p>Policing costs</p>
<p>Matthew Kelly child abuse inquiry cost £100,000 Operation Arundel, the child abuse investigation by Surrey Police, has cost more than £100,000 since 2002. The controversial inquiry set up to look into historic child abuse allegations dating back 30 years, led to the jailing of pop mogul Jonathan King. However, other suspects including TV presenter Matthew Kelly were completely cleared. In response to a FOI request, Surrey Police confirmed that the investigation began in 2000 but the force only started costing the operation in 2002.</p>	<p>18.12.05</p>	<p>The Birmingham Mail</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/sundaymercury/news/tm_objectid=16502846%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Surrey Police</p>	<p>Policing costs</p>

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<p>Anne's anti-Welsh words cost police £3,800 to investigate North Wales police spent 96 hours investigating anti-Welsh comments by TV presenter Anne Robinson, a FOI inquiry has revealed. A superintendent, detective chief inspector and two detective inspectors worked on the case, at a cost of "approximately £3,800". Robinson, famous for her acid-tongue, branded Welsh people "irritating and annoying" during a 2001 interview on the BBC2 programme Room 101. North Wales Police liaised with the Commission for Racial Equality and submitted a file to the Crown Prosecution Service, but no action was taken.</p>	<p>19.9.05</p>	<p>Daily Post - Wales</p>	<p>http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_objectid=16147744%26method=full%26siteid=50061-name_page.html</p>	<p>North Wales Police</p>	<p>Policing costs</p>
<p>Gala cost leaves nothing for charities Norfolk Police's annual Gala Day in September 2004 did not raise any money for local charities and ended up costing the force £11,000. Figures released under the FOI Act reveal that the event made £27,904 whilst expenditure was £38,929. The chairman of the Norfolk Police Authority said it was a "good investment for a small sum of money in public relations terms".</p>	<p>6.5.05</p>	<p>Eastern Daily Press</p>	<p>http://new.edp24.co.uk/search/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&itemid=NOED05%20May%202005%2019:44:12:643&tBrand=EDPOnline&tCategory=search</p>	<p>Norfolk Police</p>	<p>Policing costs</p>
<p>£2m pension for Blair as private sector faces crisis Prime Minister Tony Blair will be entitled to more than £2.6m when he leaves office, according to documents disclosed under the FOI Act. Under a 1972 Act of Parliament, former PMs receive a pension of half their salary as soon as they depart office, irrespective of their length of service. Mr Blair does not have to contribute anything to the scheme and, if he resigned today, he would receive £62,400 a year. On top of this would be his superannuation as an MP, which could be up to £38,900. He would also be entitled to a redundancy payment of £31,000 and, if he stepped down as an MP, up to a year's salary as a resettlement grant.</p>	<p>14.5.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/05/14/nblair14.xml</p>	<p>Prime Minister's Office</p>	<p>Prime Minister</p>

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<p>Campbell's fury exposed over Blair's lying-in-state role Letters to newspapers written by the Prime Minister's then press secretary, Alastair Campbell, have been released under the FOI Act. The correspondence details Mr Campbell's anger at the publication of allegations that Mr Blair had tried to "muscle in" on the Queen Mother's funeral.</p>	<p>16.3.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/03/16/ncomp16.xml</p>	<p>Prime Minister's Office</p>	<p>Prime Minister</p>
<p>How Mark Thatcher exploited his position – and infuriated Whitehall Whitehall files reveal public money was used to provide 24-hour bodyguards for Sir Mark Thatcher and security at his US home. The documents show that Denis Thatcher believed his son's demand for \$25,000 should be refused: "Mr Thatcher thinks that the low security assessment and the risk of political outcry here if it became known that taxpayers' money had been used ... argue strongly against using public funds". But Mrs Thatcher contradicted him and authorised \$31,000 work.</p>	<p>20.9.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/guardianpolitics/story/0,,1573771,00.html</p>		<p>Prime Minister</p>
<p>Secret gas was issued for IRA prison riots The government secretly authorised the use of a chemical riot control agent for use in prisons at the height of the Northern Ireland troubles, documents show. Papers from 1976 released under the FOI Act show that the use of 'CR' or Dibenzoxazepine - a skin irritant 10 times more powerful than other tear gases - was permitted from 1973 for use on prison inmates in the event of an attempted mass breakout. The authorisation was so sensitive that officials involved with organising training with the chemical were informed "All concerned should be told of the consequence of idle talk".</p>	<p>23.1.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://politics.guardian.co.uk/politicspast/story/0,,1396714,00.html</p>		<p>Prisons</p>

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<p>'Re-offending will rise with new justice bill' The Scottish prisons chief has warned that re-offending will continue to rise under the Scottish Executive's criminal justice policy. In an email sent on 1 December 2004, Tony Cameron the chief executive of the Scottish Prison Service, told Jim Gallagher, Head of the Justice Department "The aggregate effect of current policies will be a rise in the published re-offending rate and a continued and possibly increasing [prison] population, until more effective disposals kick in, from when they should reduce." He added "Perhaps the minister has already taken all this on board and is ready for it, but nothing I have seen suggests that she is."</p>	<p>2.6.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Herald</p>	<p>http://www.sundayherald.com/50158</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Prisons</p>
<p>Tories cry foul on Howard secrecy files The Home Office has released more than 500 pages of internal files relating to Michael Howard's time as home secretary in the 1990s. The documents shed fresh light on the crisis in the prison service in the mid-1990s, which led to the ousting of Derek Lewis its director-general, who later accused Howard of political interference in the civil service. Information about passport applications made by Mohamed al-Fayed have also been disclosed.</p>	<p>26.6.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2087-1669378,00.html</p>	<p>Home Office</p>	<p>Prisons</p>
<p>Home Office supplies FOI answer within two hours The Journal in Newcastle used the FOI Act to discover the name of a private contractor employed by the Prison Service to handle mail marked return-to-sender. The disclosure came only two hours after an initial refusal to release the name.</p>	<p>12.4.05</p>	<p>Hold the Front Page</p>		<p>Home Office</p>	<p>Prisons</p>

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<p>Charities attack 'state-sanctioned' violence on children Physical restraint techniques were used 768 times in 12 months against juveniles in custody, resulting in 51 injuries. Three restraint techniques are authorised by ministers for use in secure training centres which hold young people aged 12-17. They include a blow to the nose - by far the most common restraint employed 449 times - bending the thumb back (287 times) and grasping the ribs (32 times).</p>	21.11.05	The Guardian	http://politics.guardian.co.uk/homeaffairs/story/0,11026,1647286,00.html		Prisons
<p>Time to stop the prison pushers One hundred and thirty five prisoners were caught with illegal substances in North East jails in the last two years, figures disclosed under the FOI Act reveal. Of those, 3 faced new criminal charges and one received an additional 14 days in prison, but the rest lost privileges like TV, allowances and canteen visits. Durham Prison had the most drug discoveries with 71, followed by Low Newton women's prison with 30 and Castington Young Offenders Institution with 17.</p>	6.10.05	Evening Chronicle - Newcastle	http://icnewcastle.icnetwork.co.uk/eveningchronicle/eveningchronicle/tm_objectid=16216387%26method=full%26siteid=50081-name_page.html		Prisons
<p>Spin row over Labour claims 'we've never had it so good' A report released by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit argues that the Government faces "long running and structural" challenges despite having made "considerable and sustained progress in key areas". The Strategic Audit of Life in Britain, disclosed following an FOI Act request, found big improvements in health, education, employment and some crime in the most deprived areas, although there were still worrying numbers of workless households.</p>	25.2.05	The Independent	http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/politics/story.jsp?story=614548	Cabinet Office	Public relations

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<p>Whitehall planned spin for Jarvis Briefing documents released under the FOI Act detail the plans drawn up by the Treasury in the event of the Private Finance Initiative contractor Jarvis collapsing. "Press handling" issues feature heavily, along with planned "support for those who want advice on PFI contracts with Jarvis".</p>	3.2.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml;sessionid=CZM1AIIVVHQQFQFIQMGSNAGAVCBQWJVC?xml=/money/2005/02/03/cnjarv03.xml&menuId=242&sSheet=/money/2005/02/03/ixcity.html&menuId=242&_requestid=7707	Treasury	Public relations
<p>Money on PR 'well spent' East Midlands Ambulance Service paid more than £20,000 to a public relations company to promote a good image and to assist in a recruitment campaign, according to figures released under the FOI Act. Between March and October last year the service paid Quiet Storm Solutions £20,952 to produce banners, posters, exhibition stands and videos, and to design the livery for vehicles.</p>	3.6.05	Leicester Mercury	http://www.leicestermercury.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=132407&command=displayContent&sourceNode=132390&contentPK=12569793&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarsearch	East Midlands Ambulance Service	Public relations
<p>Spun-believable! Figures showing the amount spent on public relations by the Welsh Assembly Government, councils and quangos have been disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act. The costs range from the Assembly Government's spend of almost £750,000 to Conwy Council's £28,000. The bill for Swansea Council is £314,000 and for the Welsh Development Agency £590,000.</p>	31.7.05	Wales on Sunday	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15801065&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=spun-believable--name_page.html	Welsh Assembly Government	Public Relations
<p>Kew loses 800 years of history Over 1,600 original documents have disappeared from the National Archives in Kew, according to documents released under the FOI Act. Whilst some were misfiled, many went missing whilst on loan to government departments and are unlikely to be returned. The missing files span 800 years, and one of the earliest is a set of 12th century accounts from the court of Edward I.</p>	27.2.05	The Sunday Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/02/27/nkew27.xml	National Archives	Records management

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<p>Dennis the Menace lost in great museum raid More than 8,000 items have gone missing from the British Library since it moved to new headquarters on London's Euston Road. The disclosure forms part of an inventory of missing items released under the FOI Act. One of the most valuable items stolen is the March 17 1951 issue of The Beano, featuring the first appearance of Dennis The Menace.</p>	<p>27.2.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/02/28/nlib28.xml</p>	<p>British Library</p>	<p>Records management</p>
<p>Labour's War of the Roses The Welsh Assembly Government sought desperately to secure £500m "match funding" from the UK Cabinet for Wales' European aid programme, according to documents released under the FOI Act. One of the documents, a letter written by then Assembly leader Alun Michael to Andrew Smith the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, hints at the implications for the Welsh Labour party if the funding was not secured. Mr Michael lost a motion of confidence and resigned two weeks after the Treasury rejected the Welsh Assembly Government's bid.</p>	<p>9.2.05</p>	<p>Western Mail</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/newspolitics/tm_objectid=15169024&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=labour-s-war-of-the-roses-name_page.html</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly Government</p>	<p>Regeneration</p>
<p>Council's senseless slips over censorship Papers relating to the building of a new civic library in Birmingham have been released under the FOI Act. The reports show frustration among council officers as decisions about the library were put back. Development Manager Alan Bishop said that delay in making a decision to build the £179m Lord Rogers library at Eastside was "impeding development at Eastside". Birmingham City Council withheld cost projections contained in the reports. However much of the censored information had already been published by a scrutiny committee.</p>	<p>17.12.05</p>	<p>The Birmingham Post</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/birminghampost/news/tm_objectid=16493244%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Birmingham City Council</p>	<p>Regeneration</p>

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<p>Treasury curbs prince's accounting 'fiddle' The Treasury has made plans to reduce the amount Prince Charles can borrow from the Duchy of Cornwall estate, according to documents released under the FOI Act. It has been alleged that the Prince uses the borrowing rules to access more funds for himself and his family. Under the new deal the amount that can be borrowed will fall from £1.2m to £600,000 by April 2007. Further moves could see it abolished altogether.</p>	30.3.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1447859,00.html	Treasury	Royal Family
<p>Light shed on interest in death of Diana A batch of papers relating to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, released under the FOI Act reveal the high level of political interest following the car-crash in Paris. The documents chronicle the efforts to organise and pay for the funeral. One official compared "the bill which stands at about £3m" to no more than "a deck on the Royal Yacht."</p>	16.3.05	Financial Times	http://news.ft.com/cms/s/58f52e7a-95c0-11d9-bc72-00000e2511c8.html	Prime Minister's Office	Royal Family
<p>Rail chief's £377,000 payoff Figures released under the FOI Act show that Richard Bowker, former chair of the Strategic Rail Authority, received a £377,000 pay-off when he resigned in September 2004.</p>	22.4.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1465924,00.html	Department for Transport	Salaries
<p>Transport chief's 'astounding' bonus questioned Papers released under the FOI Act show that Transport for London boss Bob Kiley could potentially earn a £365,000 bonus. Critics claim the bonus targets for Mr Kiley fail to take into account adequate transport performance criteria. A spokesman for Transport for London defended Mr Kiley, claiming "real improvements to public transport in the capital" had been achieved.</p>	10.3.05	epolitix.com	http://www.epolitix.com/EN/News/200503/5547df3c-1010-4cc4-8300-dd7842424306.htm	Transport for London	Salaries
<p>Council chief forced to reveal pay rise A council chief's 28% pay rise has been revealed following a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Figures from Eden District Council in Cumbria show that Ian Bruce's annual salary jumped from £63,699 in 2000-1 to £81,592 in the current financial year.</p>	3.11.05	News and Star - Cumbria	http://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/day/foi/051103wage.shtml	Eden District Council	Salaries

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<p>£10,000 a month for crisis hospital boss A letter released by the Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust under the FOI Act has revealed that temporary acting chairman Peter Garland was paid £60,000 for six months' work to help sort out a projected £11.3m overspend at the trust. The trust will appoint a permanent chair once Mr Garland steps down, who will be paid £31,000 a year.</p>	7.7.05	The Guardian	http://society.guardian.co.uk/nhsplan/story/0,,1454374,00.html	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Salaries
<p>Council paid £21,000 for four days work Waveney District Council paid more than £21,000 to two temporary senior officials who left after having worked only four days. The figures mean that the average cost per day for each official was £2,690.87.</p>	23.5.05	Eastern Daily Press	http://new.edp24.co.uk/search/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&itemid=NOED22%20May%202005%2018:07:10:083&tBrand=EDPOnline&tCategory=search	Waveney District Council	Salaries
<p>Holyrood is damned by 'secret' dossier Building experts warned five years ago that rules and regulations had been broken in the project to build the Scottish Parliament and costs were being "adversely affected". The report, written in 2000 and released under the FOI (Scotland) Act, found "inconsistencies and irregularities" in the process of procuring contractors to manage the building. The authors suggested "it is not too late to take action to correct mistakes". The Holyrood building opened three years late and £390m over budget.</p>	21.2.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/archive.cfm?id=195022005	Scottish Parliament	Scottish Parliament
<p>Officials told Lord Fraser not to let report spoil Royal opening Lord Fraser, the Tory peer in charge of the inquiry into the building of the Scottish Parliament, was advised to delay publishing his report if it coincided with the Royal opening of the building, according to correspondence released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The report was eventually published a couple of weeks before the scheduled visit of the Queen to Holyrood, avoiding the potential conflict.</p>	24.2.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=208012005	Scottish Executive	Scottish Parliament

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<p>McConnell didn't want TV at Holyrood inquiry Jack McConnell, Scotland's First Minister, was reluctant to agree to the televising of Lord Fraser's inquiry into the building of the Scottish Parliament, according to correspondence released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. The First Minister raised concerns in a letter to Lord Fraser "that it might discourage the degree of frankness" from those giving evidence - a point also put forward by Lord Hutton in his decision not to televise witnesses. Despite these misgivings Lord Fraser gave the go-ahead for televised coverage, which included live online streaming.</p>	<p>24.2.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=209342005</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Scottish Parliament</p>
<p>David Steel tried to block probe into Holyrood fiasco Former presiding officer Sir David Steel tried to block moves to set up the Fraser Inquiry into the Holyrood fiasco, documents show. Jack McConnell announced on April 19, 2003, that he was ordering a "full independent inquiry" into the soaring cost of the new parliament building. On May 5, just before he handed over to his successor George Reid, Sir David replied: "Our experience from previous reviews is that they are disruptive and tie up key people for significant periods of time. It is essential therefore that any reviews begin only once the project is completed."</p>	<p>24.8.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=1834962005</p>		<p>Scottish Parliament</p>
<p>Not an expert? The job's yours The reasons why Newsnight presenter Kirsty Wark was appointed to the panel that chose the design of the Scottish Parliament have emerged under the FOI (Scotland) Act. "At yesterday's meeting," wrote senior civil servant Paul Grice "We agreed it would be helpful to have a young woman who would both help with gender balance and in terms of the age profile." "It might be argued," replied his colleague Alistair Brown "that they know nothing about buildings and design but (apart from the point that that might be seen as a good thing) you could get away with one such person on a panel of seven."</p>	<p>3.4.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2-1506-1550230,00.html</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Scottish Parliament</p>

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<p>Birt urged to quit as adviser to Blair McKinseys management consultancy which pays Lord Birt an estimated £100,000 a year has won £50m worth of government contracts since the peer's appointment as strategy adviser to Number 10. The figures are contained in 500 pages of documents released under the FOI Act. The documents also show that the peer's appointment to Number 10 in 2001 was on the understanding that he would not discuss his policy work on issues ranging from drugs to health, education, transport and crime in public.</p>	<p>4.7.05</p>	<p>The Herald</p>			<p>Special advisers</p>
<p>Birt hails value of National Service A report by the Prime Minister's strategy adviser Lord Birt, estimated that the number of crimes committed each year was 130m. The report blamed the rise in crime on "the decline of institutions and experiences that brought discipline and order to lives; the family, the churches, apprenticeships, National Service." The report from December 2000 was one of a number of previously confidential policy studies by Lord Birt that have been disclosed under the FOI Act.</p>	<p>3.7.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,1-523-1678579,00.html</p>		<p>Special advisers</p>
<p>Labour's 'dirty tricks' over secret Cameron dossier The Treasury has disclosed that it holds sensitive information on Conservative MP David Cameron. Existence of the file, compiled when Mr Cameron was appointed special adviser to the Conservative Chancellor Norman Lamont in 1992, was revealed in response to a FOI request. However, the Treasury refused to release the information after considering "the effect disclosure would have on the individual".</p>	<p>20.11.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/11/20/n.cam20.xml&sSheet=/portal/2005/11/20/ixportaltop.html</p>	<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Special advisers</p>

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<p>Traffic cameras earn Treasury £21m Motorists caught on camera speeding or jumping traffic lights made a £21.7 for the Treasury last year. Statistics for the 2003-4 financial year, released by the Department of Transport under freedom of information legislation, showed that total receipts from fines were £113.5 million, of which £91.8 million was reinvested in road safety and covered the cost of the safety camera partnerships.</p>	<p>26.7.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/07/26/nspeed26.xml</p>	<p>Department for Transport</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>
<p>Speeding: Now the odds are loaded against you The percentage of speed cameras that actually contain film has increased in a number of counties over the past two years, according to figures released under the FOI Act. In Avon and Somerset 66 out of 114 fixed cameras are 'live', up from 33% in 2003 to 58% this year. In Strathclyde the percentage has risen from 17% to 24% in two years.</p>	<p>15.5.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2105-1610436,00.html</p>	<p>Various safety camera partnerships</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>
<p>Speeding police are off the hook Of the 188 police officers caught speeding in Greater Manchester between July 2004 and May 2005, just 14 were punished with a £60 fine and three penalty points. The remaining 133 faced no prosecution because senior officers decided their vehicles had been "correctly used on police business or in an emergency situation". Greater Manchester has one of the worst records for accidents involving police vehicles – there were 1,075 crashes during 2003/4, the third highest in the country after the Met and West Midlands forces.</p>	<p>28.6.05</p>	<p>Manchester Evening News</p>	<p>http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/164/164009_speeding_police_are_off_the_hook.html</p>	<p>Police forces</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>

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<p>All these police cars were caught speeding on our roads last year. But guess how many drivers were fined... Fifty-nine Derbyshire police cars were caught speeding by roadside cameras last year, according to data released under the FOI Act. The cars were photographed exceeding the limit without showing their emergency blue light and were therefore sent notices of intended prosecution. However, in all cases the force decided against prosecution after it was accepted that it had been necessary for the officers to exceed the speed limit in the course of their duties.</p>	<p>26.5.05</p>	<p>Derby Evening Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=124615&command=displayContent&sourceNode=124519&contentPK=12525110&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarsearch</p>	<p>Derbyshire Police</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>
<p>Cameras catch speeding police Police officers were caught by speed cameras a total of 45,741 times in 12 months, figures disclosed under the FOI Act reveal. However in most cases the officers were exempted because they were on a 999 call or other operational duties. Of the total, 934 (2%) officers were given a £60 penalty ticket, taken to court or still had cases pending. Essex Police topped the table with 5,269 officers caught in just six months, a rate of 3.26 per officer per year. West Midlands Police had one of the lowest rates in the country at just 0.23 instances per officer. Warwickshire Police refused to release the information.</p>	<p>27.12.05</p>	<p>Birmingham Mail</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/mail/news/tm_objectid=16523472%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Police forces</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>
<p>Speeding police accused of hypocrisy Fifteen Suffolk police officers have been given fixed penalty tickets for speeding while off-duty since 2000, the force has revealed. However no disciplinary action was taken against any of the officers. Anna Woolnough spokeswoman for the force said: "Officers who receive penalty notices for driving offences committed while off duty are required by the constabulary to file an endorsement report to their supervisor. These reports are then forwarded to the professional standards department where they are retained and the appropriate action taken dependent on the nature of the offence."</p>	<p>1.11.05</p>	<p>Evening Star</p>		<p>Suffolk Constabulary</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>

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<p>Speed cop-out Just six out of more than 100 North Wales police officers caught by speed cameras between March 2004-5 ended up in court, it has been revealed. In response to an FOI request, North Wales police confirmed that 101 employees were notices of intended prosecution for exceeding the speed limit in police vehicles. It was then considered whether speed was necessary for specific duties to be carried out. Reasons included attending emergencies, gaining on a vehicle ahead in order to stop it, "and a multitude of operational reasons".</p>	<p>26.9.05</p>	<p>Daily Post - Wales</p>	<p>http://icnorthwales.icnetwork.co.uk/news/regionalnews/tm_objectid=16174428&method=full&siteid=50142&headline=speed-cop-out-name_page.html</p>	<p>North Wales Police</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>
<p>£655,000 – That's figure drivers paid in speed fines over last 12 months More than £655,000 has been raised from speeding fines in the High Wycombe district in the 12 months to July 2005. Fourteen thousand motorists were caught on speed cameras, with each paying at least £60 for the offence, Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership has disclosed. The Partnership refused to release specific figures for the controversial mobile camera on Marlow Hill, which is sited just before the speed limit changes from 30 mph to 40 mph.</p>	<p>2.9.05</p>	<p>Bucks Free Press</p>	<p>http://www.bucksfreepress.co.uk/news/localnews/display.var.626999.0.655_000_thats_figure_drivers_paid_in_speed_fines_over_last_12_months.php</p>	<p>Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>
<p>94,923 caught over speed limit Speeding offences have increased by more than 2400% on Huddersfield's roads in the last five years, figures show. Last year 94,923 drivers were caught going too fast in West Yorkshire, compared to 3,789 in 1999.</p>	<p>1.9.05</p>	<p>The Huddersfield Daily Examiner</p>	<p>http://ichuddersfield.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100localnews/tm_objectid=15920389&method=full&siteid=50060&headline=94-923-caught-over-speed-limit-name_page.html</p>	<p>West Yorkshire Casualty Reduction Partnership</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>

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<p>County speed cameras net £871,000 profit Derbyshire's speed cameras made almost £900,000 profit for the government in one year, Department for Transport figures show. The Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership collected £2,822,400 in fines in the 2003-4 financial year. The Partnership's operating costs were only £1,951,227, which meant the Treasury received a surplus of £871,173. Out of 36 areas listed, Derbyshire made the 13th largest surplus. The area with the highest surplus was South Wales, which had a surplus of £2,213,926. Overall, the Government made more than £23m in the year.</p>	<p>14.9.05</p>	<p>Evening Telegraph - Derbyshire</p>	<p>http://www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=124615&command=displayContent&sourceNode=124519&contentPK=13181537&moduleName=InternalSearch&ormname=sidebarsearch</p>	<p>Department for Transport</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>
<p>Speed cameras fill Brown's coffers More than £2m of the money raised by Midlands' speed cameras in 2003/04 went to the Treasury, figures disclosed by the Department for Transport show. In Warwickshire drivers contributed £1.1m to the Treasury. Out of £3m collected in speeding fines in the county, only £1.9m was spent on road safety. The figures also show that speeding fines have increased. The £3 million paid by Warwickshire motorists last year compares with just £200,000 in 2001/02.</p>	<p>15.9.05</p>	<p>The Birmingham Post</p>	<p>http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/birminghampost/news/tm_objectid=16133351%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html</p>	<p>Department for Transport</p>	<p>Speed cameras</p>
<p>Speed cams: the picture is unclear Accident rates at many speed camera sites in Bristol have not fallen and some have actually increased, data obtained under the FOI Act shows. At the Brislington Hill camera site on the A4, the number of accidents has risen from 11 in 2003 to 15 in 2004. At Westbury Road, Clifton, there were no fatal accidents until 2002, when the safety partnership took control of the camera and in 2003 there were two. However, the Avon and Somerset Safety Camera Partnership states that overall accident rates have gone up, so if the rates are static at camera sites, the equipment is having the right effect.</p>	<p>6.9.05</p>	<p>Evening Post - Bristol</p>			<p>Speed cameras</p>

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<p>Accidents on the rise at camera site Details of road accidents at speed camera locations in Birmingham have been disclosed under the FOI Act. In the first nine months of 2004 there were 19 fatal or serious injury collisions at accident blackspots deemed so deadly that they needed a speed camera. This was just less than a quarter of the number of serious collisions five years ago.</p>	23.6.05	Birmingham Evening Mail	http://icbirmingham.icnetwork.co.uk/mail/news/tm_objectid=15658342%26method=full%26siteid=50002-name_page.html		Speed cameras
<p>Speeding 'not a factor' in A12 crashes, yet camera is approved A new speed camera was approved near Colchester following a number of accidents on a dual carriageway. However according to files released under the FOI Act, speed was not cited as the cause in any of them. Police records show that none of the officers' reports into the five crashes listed "excessive speed for conditions" as a determinant.</p>	19.4.05	The Daily Telegraph	http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/04/19/n.cam19.xml&sSheet=/news/2005/04/19/ixhome.html	Essex Police	Speed cameras
<p>Welsh speed cameras generate most cash Speed cameras in South and Mid Wales generate more profit than anywhere else in the UK. Figures obtained under the FOI Act show that the difference between money raised from the cameras and the cost of running them is £22m a year. The Mid and South Wales Safety Camera Partnership had the biggest surplus of all in the 2003-4 financial year of £2,213,026, 10% of the UK total. It raised £7,281,180 from fines and spent £5,067,254 on maintaining cameras and road safety projects.</p>	14.9.05	Western Mail	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/newspolitics/tm_objectid=16127172&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=welsh-speed-cameras-make-the-most-for-gordon-brown-name_page.html	Department for Transport	Speed cameras

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<p>Minister breaks ranks on secrecy Government minister Yvette Cooper has disclosed details of her discussions regarding a possible conflict of interest, despite government resistance to the release of such information. The housing minister has revealed that she is banned from seeing official papers and making decisions about the Peabody Trust housing association because a close relative works there. Her disclosure, in response to an FOI request, is in line with a ruling by the parliamentary ombudsman Ann Abraham that all such conflicts should be made public. Ministers who will not publish family or financial connections include Tony Blair and Geoff Hoon.</p>	<p>18.2.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1417181,00.html</p>	<p>Office of the Deputy Prime Minister</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>
<p>Concern over Morgan attending function Details of a police investigation into the relationship between a controversial businessman and Richard Thomas, the former Acting Chief Constable of Gwent Police, have been disclosed under the FOI Act. Although the investigation concluded that there were insufficient grounds for prosecution, the report said that Mr Thomas broke force standing orders by awarding a contract for the supply of CCTV equipment to Dr Ta'eed's company. Thomas subsequently became a non-executive director of the firm.</p>	<p>28.9.05</p>	<p>Western Mail</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0600uk/tm_objectid=16182516&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=concerns-over-first-minister-attending-millennium-function-name_page.html</p>	<p>Gwent Police</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>
<p>Executive reveals gifts accepted by ministers An Aer Arran t-shirt and silver model of a dhow were two of the gifts given to Scottish ministers by airlines in 2004. A list of gifts was disclosed by the Scottish Executive under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act. The silver dhow was one of several gifts given to Patricia Ferguson, the arts minister. It was the only gift worth more than £140 and the only one retained by the Executive.</p>	<p>3.2.05</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/politics.cfm?id=127712005</p>	<p>Scottish Executive</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>

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<p>Minister in Spanish tickets row Welsh Economic Development Minister Andrew Davies accepted a free ticket to watch Real Madrid from a Spanish company promoting wind turbines in Wales. The company is in the process of making a number of planning applications in Wales. An Assembly Government spokesman said "On returning to Wales, the Minister wrote to the company to ascertain the cost of the ticket, offered to reimburse the company, and privately donated the equivalent amount to the tsunami appeal".</p>	<p>17.9.05</p>	<p>Western Mail</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=16141939&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=-row-over-minister-s-ticket-to-see-real-madrid-name_page.html</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly Government</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>
<p>Jowell faces conduct claims Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport Tessa Jowell may have failed to properly disclose details of her husband's business dealings in Iran. In accordance with the ministerial code of conduct, ministers must disclose to their department's permanent secretary the financial interests of their family if there could be a conflict of interest. In response to a FOI request, Jowell's department confirmed that she disclosed her husband's work for the Iranian company ILTC on 2 May 2003. However, Mr Mills had been advising the company for at least a year before that.</p>	<p>6.11.05</p>	<p>The Observer</p>	<p>http://politics.guardian.co.uk/labour/story/0,9061,1635465,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Culture, Media and Sport</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>
<p>Anger as private criticism revealed A former Stormont minister criticised a draft report by the Northern Ireland Audit Office as "wholly substandard". The behind-the-scenes criticism by Sir Reg Empey the then Enterprise Minister is contained in a letter to the Tourist Board chairman, Roy Bailie. The letter backs Mr Bailie's concern about the watchdog's draft findings on the Tourist Board's contracts with W&G Baird, Mr Bailie's print company. In its report published in 2001, the Audit Office accepted Government assurances that Mr Bailie had no role in print procurement but said the Tourist Board was not well placed to defend itself against "allegations of favouritism", because of poor tendering procedures.</p>	<p>29.3.05</p>	<p>Belfast Telegraph</p>			<p>Standards in public life</p>

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<p>NITB struggles over watchdog probe revealed Documents have revealed struggles behind-the-scenes over probes into the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. In September 2000, Board chairman Roy Bailie wrote to Enterprise Minister Sir Reg Empey expressing concern at the "potential damage" to his reputation from a draft report by the NI Audit Office. The final report, published in 2001, concluded that the Board was "not well placed to defend itself against allegations of favouritism" following the award of contracts to Mr Bailie's company. The Board was also criticised in a Public Accounts Committee report in October 2002. In December, Mr Bailie pressed the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment over its response to the committee suggesting a list of amendments.</p>	<p>24.3.05</p>	<p>Belfast Telegraph</p>		<p>Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>
<p>Another fine mess? A confidential probe into unauthorised skip service payments made by Larne Council has been released under the FOI Act. Recycle Skip Hire which had links to a councillor, received £85,250 from the council between July 1998 and August 2001. An investigation by audit consultancy firm Helm concluded that there had been a serious breach of the Council's financial procedures. No formal contract was ever put in place and the arrangements were not sanctioned by the council.</p>	<p>29.4.05</p>	<p>Belfast Telegraph</p>		<p>Larne Borough Council</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>
<p>'Echogate' officer condemned An investigation concluded that it was "totally inappropriate" for a Cardiff councillor to arrange for a letter to be written to a newspaper to boost an ex-councillor's image. Mike Doel asked a Labour Party activist to write to the Viewpoints section of the South Wales Echo in order to boost the profile of ex-council leader Russell Goodway. The report of the investigation in 2003, which cost £7,200 of public money, concluded that Doel's actions were "potentially a very serious breach" of regulations governing councillors' behaviour.</p>	<p>12.5.05</p>	<p>South Wales Echo</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15508895%26method=full%26siteid=50082-name_page.html</p>	<p>Cardiff Council</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>

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<p>Revealed: Why council staff were suspended Cardiff council has suspended 59 staff since 2002 for issues including drug misuse, fraud and violence. Figures released under the FOI Act show that 19 staff have been dismissed following disciplinary action, with 11 suspended over fraud allegations and 9 for violent conduct. The authority also revealed that more than £300,000 has been paid to suspended staff since 2002.</p>	<p>11.3.05</p>	<p>South Wales Echo</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0200wales/tm_objectid=15283864&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=revealed---why-council-staff-were-suspended-name_page.html</p>	<p>Cardiff Council</p>	<p>Standards in public life</p>
<p>Foreign scientists barred amid terror fears Over 200 foreign scientists have been banned from studying at British universities since 2001 amid concern they could present a terrorist threat. Institutions can refer applicants for security clearance via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's voluntary vetting scheme. Under the scheme, universities can request security checks on students from 10 countries including Pakistan, Syria, India and Egypt, who apply to study one of 21 scientific disciplines.</p>	<p>19.7.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,,1531408,00.html</p>	<p>Foreign and Commonwealth Office</p>	<p>Terrorism</p>
<p>Bin Laden's London man may finally be sent to US after 7 years Protracted extradition proceedings against Khalid al-Fawwaz, who ran al-Qaeda's media office in London for 4 years, are close to conclusion. Mr Fawwaz who is wanted in the US over the 1998 East Africa embassy bombings that killed 224 people, has been fighting extradition for seven years. However a Home Office report, obtained under the FOI Act, says that his lawyers have been given a deadline of 31 May by which they must submit last-ditch pleas against his surrender to the American authorities.</p>	<p>31.8.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,22989-1757771,00.html</p>	<p>Home Office</p>	<p>Terrorism</p>

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<p>Complaints made by tourists a cause for concern Details of complaints made to Scotland's tourist board VisitScotland have been released under the FOI (Scotland) Act. One couple had to flee from a psychotic B&B owner, whilst another found the carpet of their guesthouse covered with "crumbs and dustballs" and their bed linen soiled. A total of 1,100 tourists wrote to the board to complain.</p>	<p>20.5.06</p>	<p>The Scotsman</p>	<p>http://news.scotsman.com/scotland.cfm?id=675842005</p>	<p>The Scottish Tourist Board</p>	<p>Tourism</p>
<p>Treasury casts doubt on Stansted runway Serious doubts about the financeability of a second runway at Stansted airport have been raised in Treasury papers released under the Freedom of Information Act. The papers submitted in confidence to a High Court hearing last year, reveal that the Treasury is "concerned about the potential for serious delay" to the new runway unless it is cross-subsidised by the users of Heathrow and Gatwick, London's other two main airports. The papers suggest that were the project to be funded solely by Stansted users, peak-time passenger charges could rise to £16 per flight.</p>	<p>23.2.05</p>	<p>The Independent</p>		<p>Treasury</p>	<p>Transport</p>
<p>Ministers had warning of rail system collapse The Strategic Rail Authority warned in 2003 that a quarter of national rail network would shut within three years without an urgent injection of government money. Documents obtained under the FOI Act show that Department for Transport officials reacted angrily and ordered changes to the SRA's forecasts. The DfT's top civil servant David Rowlands wrote that he "did not at this stage believe" that a budgetary squeeze would lead to "the magnitude of changes" outlined by the SRA.</p>	<p>10.2.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1409558,00.html</p>	<p>Department for Transport</p>	<p>Transport</p>

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<p>Railtrack boss 'had doubt' The chairman of Railtrack expressed doubts about the company's financial position in the months before it collapsed, documents disclosed under the FOI Act reveal. Minutes reveal that in July 2001, three months before Railtrack was forced into administration, Railtrack chairman John Robinson, told then Transport Secretary Stephen Byers "Railtrack's financial position was worse than previously realised". Mr Byers has said that he only decided on 5 October 2001 not to provide additional government funding to Railtrack.</p>	<p>1.4.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://business.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2020-9082-1550339,00.html</p>		<p>Transport</p>
<p>Railtrack shutdown was 'a bolt from the blue' A confidential memo released under the Freedom of Information Act has revealed that Tom Winsor the former rail regulator warned the government about the implications of its seizure of Railtrack in 2001. In the memo, Winsor claims to have detailed the potential damage to investor confidence "if the Government were seen to be taking away the independence of an economic regulator", and highlighted that the consequences might be felt throughout regulated industries.</p>	<p>31.3.05</p>	<p>The Daily Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml?xml=/money/2005/03/31/cnorr31.xml</p>	<p>Office of Rail Regulation</p>	<p>Transport</p>
<p>Railtrack's fate sealed with Byers' threat Former Transport Secretary Stephen Byers warned Tom Winsor that his powers as Rail Regulator would be removed by a Parliamentary act if he attempted to save Railtrack. The details are contained in an account of a meeting in October 2001 written by Mr Winsor and released by the Office of Rail Regulation under the FOI Act. According to Winsor's account, his objections were rejected by Byers who said he "had the authority of the prime minister and the chancellor immediately to introduce emergency legislation".</p>	<p>31.3.05</p>	<p>The Guardian</p>	<p>http://business.guardian.co.uk/story/0,,1448742,00.html</p>	<p>Office of Rail Regulation</p>	<p>Transport</p>

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<p>Drivers face £20 toll to reach Heathrow Motorists travelling to and from London on the M4 could face a toll of up to £20 under plans being considered by the Department of Transport to cut pollution around Heathrow airport. The charge, which could start at £5 to £10 from 2008, would be the first mandatory levy on Britain's motorway network. It would rise to about £20 by 2015 to ensure that European emissions targets are met, clearing one of the hurdles for the construction of a third runway at Heathrow. The proposals are outlined in a memo by transport officials published under the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	25.9.05	The Sunday Times		Department for Transport	Transport
<p>Tube's escalators in decline Just under half the escalators on the London Underground suffered some loss of service during January 2005 and 55 were out of service for longer than 10 hours, according to data released under the FOI Act.</p>	11.4.05	Evening Standard	http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/londonnews/articles/17845629?source=Evening%20Standard	Transport for London	Transport
<p>TfL axes C-charge debt collection agency Foreign vehicles driving through London have incurred 65,534 congestion charge penalties, according to figures released under the FOI Act. However less than 2000 have subsequently been paid. That means that Transport for London is owed as much as £9.5m in unpaid overseas fines. Transport for London terminated the contract of the company responsible for enforcing the congestion charge in December 2004.</p>	15.3.05	The Guardian	http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/story/0,,1437708,00.html	Transport for London	Transport
<p>Government cuts funding for 'driver fatigue' campaigns The Department for Transport is estimated to spend £650,000 this year on highlighting the dangers of driver fatigue, according to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act. That is less than half the cost in 2002-3, when spending stood at £1.46m. The data was disclosed along with figures for spending on drink-drive campaigns, for which it is projected £2,545,000 will be spent in 2004-5.</p>	28.1.05	The Scotsman		Department for Transport	Transport

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<p>Holyrood chiefs under attack as car takes strain Scottish ministers and civil servants used a car 276 times in the previous six months to make the short trip between the Scottish Executive headquarters and the Scottish Parliament. The buildings are just a few minutes walk from each other using a short cut. The figures also show that a total of 12,000 chauffeur-driven journeys were made in official limousines last year through the Government Car Service compared to 3,704 in 1998.</p>	8.3.05	The Scotsman	http://news.scotsman.com/archive.cfm?id=255582005	Scottish Executive	Transport
<p>Call for action over rogue taxi drivers Requests under the FOI (Scotland) Act revealed 650 alleged offences involving taxi drivers over the past year. The reports show the nature of the complaints included drivers insulting passengers, dangerous driving, causing criminal damage and overcharging.</p>	17.4.05	The Sunday Times	http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2-1506-1572980,00.html	Various councils and police forces in Scotland	Transport
<p>Northern bypass costs rocket The cost of a bypass in Norwich could edge towards £200m, £80m more than originally estimated, according to papers released under the FOI Act. The documents reveal that officials have considered a range of funding options, including a private finance initiative and congestion charging in Norwich. The £120m total is based on 2002 figures, which has prompted concerns that, given the delays and uncertainty, the final figure could be much higher.</p>	29.3.05	Eastern Daily Press	http://new.edp24.co.uk/search/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&itemid=NOED28%20Mar%202005%2019:27:05:150&tBrand=EDPOnline&tCategory=search	Norfolk County Council	Transport
<p>Acle Straight dualling costs soar The cost of converting the A47 between Norwich and Yarmouth to a dual carriageway has risen to £56m, double previous estimates, according to Highways Agency figures. According to a county councillor, the sum which equates to £9m a mile, is higher than expected partly because the treasury now multiplies the estimated costs of projects by 1.6% to allow for risks and to avoid overspending.</p>	2.3.05	Eastern Daily Press	http://new.edp24.co.uk/search/story.aspx?brand=EDPOnline&category=News&itemid=NOED01%20Mar%202005%2018:08:14:390&tBrand=EDPOnline&tCategory=search	Highways Agency	Transport

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<p>Bus lane's £2m in fines Transport for London collected over £500,000 in fines from a single bus-lane camera in Haringey. Figures obtained under the FOI Act put the camera top of a list of the 10 most 'lucrative' bus lane cameras in London. Together, these devices caught more than 119,000 drivers over the past year, issuing fines worth nearly £12 million at face value. However TfL said so far only 75,125 drivers had paid up, earning more than £3.75 million.</p>	<p>7.6.05</p>	<p>Evening Standard</p>	<p>http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/londonnews/articles/19141298?source=Evening%20Standard</p>	<p>Transport for London</p>	<p>Transport</p>
<p>TfL accused of peddling phoney phone statistics Claims by Transport for London, the body that controls transport in the capital, that the majority of the public only want mobile reception "available at Underground stations and not throughout the network" are contradicted by a TfL document. The document dated October 2001, shows that more than 90% of commuters surveyed backed the construction of a mobile network is some form on the entire network.</p>	<p>29.5.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/main.jhtml;sessionid=0E0WKSLOZYI2NQFIQMGSNAGAVCBQWJVC?xml=/money/2005/05/29/cntfl29.xml&secureRefresh=true&_requestid=46285</p>	<p>Transport for London</p>	<p>Transport</p>
<p>Park and ride flop A park and ride scheme in Doncaster costs commuters £1 but the taxpayer £1,450 per car. The service has cost Doncaster Council £36,556 since it was set up in September 2004 and been used by 224 cars. Figures disclosed under the FOI Act show there were 27 users in the first month, 63 in October, 49 in November and 71 in December. However, none used the site in January, it was not available in February, one vehicle was logged in March, none in April, 7 in May and 6 in June. The problem appears to be with the location of the scheme.</p>	<p>18.8.05</p>	<p>Doncaster Free Press</p>	<p>http://www.doncastertoday.co.uk/ViewArticle2.aspx?SectionID=786&ArticleID=1118383</p>	<p>Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council</p>	<p>Transport</p>

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<p>Metrolink: the truth The Department for Transport was re-considering approval for new lines on the Manchester tram network in January 2004, papers disclosed under the FOI Act reveal. Transport Secretary Alistair Darling announced in July of that year that £520m for three new Metrolink lines was being withdrawn due to spiralling costs. The papers reveal the anger that greeted the announcement. Eccles' MP Ian Stewart wrote to Mr Darling on August 8 on behalf of all local MPs, saying the reaction had been "possibly the most hostile reaction to a government decision which we have witnessed during our political careers". The funding was eventually put back on the table after a campaign.</p>	<p>9.8.05</p>	<p>Manchester Evening News</p>	<p>http://www.manchesteronline.co.uk/men/news/s/168/168812_metrolink_the_truth.html</p>	<p>Department for Transport</p>	<p>Transport</p>
<p>Children to get behaviour lessons on public transport Only a small number of incidents of criminal damage on London's buses end up in court. Transport for London figures released under the Freedom of Information Act, reveal that of the 700 incidents on buses logged between November 2004 and April 2005, 130 led to arrests and 6 resulted in a sentence. Of juvenile cases, 24 resulted in a reprimand, 13 a warning and 43 led to bail. One offender had to spend 8 hours cleaning defaced buses.</p>	<p>20.6.05</p>	<p>Evening Standard</p>	<p>http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/news/articles/19405260?source=Evening%20Standard</p>	<p>Transport for London</p>	<p>Transport</p>
<p>Most travellers dodge council tax Statistics obtained under the FOI Act reveal that 4 out of 5 travellers living in unauthorised encampments do not pay council tax although required to do so. Traveller sites have a payment rate of 17% compared to a national average of 97%. One reason for the shortfall is that the Valuation Office Agency won't "band" caravans on travellers' sites until they have been there for 12 months, so councils cannot levy bills.</p>	<p>13.11.05</p>	<p>The Sunday Telegraph</p>	<p>http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2005/11/13/ntrav13.xml&sSheet=/news/2005/11/13/ixhome.html</p>	<p>Various councils</p>	<p>Travellers</p>

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<p>Uncovered at last: the sightings of strange flying objects found in Britain's 'X Files' Files containing reports of possible UFO sightings have been released by the Ministry of Defence under the FOI Act. Among the reports is an account given in 1977 by an RAF pilot and two NCOs at RAF Boulmer. They described "bright objects hanging over the sea" which were "luminous, round and four to five times larger than a Whirlwind helicopter".</p>	22.1.05	The Independent		Ministry of Defence	UFOs
<p>The truth is out there: declassified reports of UFO sightings reveal 88 sightings last year Britain's most recent UFO sightings have been disclosed in files released under the Freedom of Information Act. In 2004 the Ministry of Defence's UFO unit received 88 reports about unexplained objects in the skies. The most recent observations were made on 15 January 2005 following two separate reports from Chatteris in Cambridgeshire and Whitstable, Kent. A report from Surrey on 20 May 2004 described a UFO with "grooves and windows" but no room for humans.</p>	3.2.05	The Times	http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/t his_britain/story.jsp?story=607253	Ministry of Defence	UFOs
<p>28 reports of UFO sightings in Wales The MOD has investigated 28 reports of UFO sightings in Wales since 2002. The encounters included a black object hovering over Rhyl, a flying disc over Newport and a spinning craft with legs spotted over the Valleys. The figures show that there were 7 reported UFO sightings in 2002, 8 in 2003, 4 in 2004 and 9 so far in 2005.</p>	31.10.05	Western Mail	http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100 news/0200wales/tm_objectid=1631 3905&method=full&siteid=50082& headline=28-reports-of-ufo- sightings-in-wales-- name_page.html	Ministry of Defence	UFOs
<p>Is Huddersfield really a UFO hot spot? Ministry of Defence files disclosed under the FOI Act reveal four separate UFO sightings in the skies above Huddersfield between 2002 and 2004. There were a further 10 across the rest of West Yorkshire including Leeds, Bradford and Todmorden. The UFOs were described as looking like "silver balls", "cigars" and even a "flying jellyfish".</p>	17.11.05	Huddersfield Daily Examiner	http://ichuddersfield.icnetwork.co.u k/0100news/0100localnews/tm_obj ectid=16382006&method=full&sitei d=50060&headline=is- huddersfield-really-a-ufo-hot-spot-- name_page.html	Ministry of Defence	UFOs

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<p>Residents aren't spaced out by their alien visitors The small Ayrshire village of West Kilbride was the extraterrestrial hotspot of Britain in 2004, with more reported UFOs sightings than anywhere else. Previously, the highest number of UFO sightings occurred in Bonnybridge.</p>	<p>13.5.05</p>	<p>The Times</p>	<p>http://www.timesonline.co.uk/printFriendly/0,,2-1506-1520787,00.html</p>	<p>Ministry of Defence</p>	<p>UFOs</p>
<p>Outcry at Assembly furniture fix £15,700 was spent on a reception desk for the National Assembly for Wales. The desk, made by Taylor Woodrow, which is also constructing the new £41m Assembly building in Cardiff Bay, has a steel frame with translucent laminated glass panels on the front face and a work surface made of Welsh slate. Figures also show that £9,000 has been spent on plants for the courtyard of the new building.</p>	<p>4.9.05</p>	<p>Wales on Sunday</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/newspolitics/tm_objectid=15930868&method=full&siteid=50082&headline=outcry-at-assembly-furniture-fix-name_page.html</p>	<p>National Assembly for Wales</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly</p>
<p>Cost of Assembly could've been half Millions of pounds might have been saved had Cardiff City Hall been chosen as the site for the Welsh National Assembly. Papers released under the FOI Act suggest that the decision to move into a new building in Cardiff Bay could cost £70m - potentially around £40m more than the City Hall proposals.</p>	<p>30.5.05</p>	<p>South Wales Echo</p>	<p>http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/newspolitics/tm_objectid=15573266%26method=full%26siteid=50082-name_page.html</p>	<p>National Assembly for Wales</p>	<p>Welsh Assembly</p>