FOI Release *Information released under the Freedom of Information Act*

Title: Data on patent applications

Date of release: 30 September 2016

Information request:

Does the IPO publish data on patent applications, preferably broken down by sector, region and successful/non-successful applications?

Information released:

The IPO publishes a dataset of patents which is broken down by country, region (e.g. Midlands, Scotland etc.) and which provides individual postcodes for each application. Successful applications are indicated by a date of grant in the 'B' publication column. Please be aware that due to the length of time it takes to process a patent (four years or more), many more applications that have reached only 'A' publication stage (at around 18 months following application) will eventually go on to be granted. The dataset is published at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ipo-patent-data together with notes explaining the limitations of the data.

We do not attempt to break down patents by sector because the same technologies may be used in different sectors, but the dataset includes the classification codes for each application, which can be compared with the WIPO IPC codes available at: http://www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/en/ . The classification codes should help you to identify at least some sectors, e.g. pharmaceuticals.