



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Reference FOI-1663

Date 11 October 2023

DATA ON LOCAL PUBLIC AUDIT TOOL

Thank you for your request of 28th September 2023 for data on the local public audit tool on the National Audit Office (NAO) website.

Your request was handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We can confirm that we hold some of the information that you requested.

Your specific request is set out in **Annex A** together with our response.

Annex B sets out the steps you may wish to take if you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request for information under the FOIA.

I am sorry we don't have all the information you requested, but I hope this response is still useful.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team



Annex A

Request for information about local public audit tool:

"I wanted to ask for data on your Local Public Audit tool <https://www.nao.org.uk/overviews/find-a-local-public-bodys-audit-report/>

I'd like to know:

- 1. Hit rates/usage per week*
- 2. Which authorities' reports were searched for, in descending order from highest to lowest*
- 3. Any data on who may be using the site*

Please let me know if you need further information."

NAO response:

Our Digital Team has confirmed that we don't currently have any tracking within the tool itself, and so we are only able to provide the information for part 1 of your request. We do not hold the information for parts 2 and 3 of your request.

So far in the 2023 calendar year, we have recorded an average of 43 views of the page per week.

In case it's helpful as additional background information, we currently rely on auditors sending through their finalised reports to us in order to update the tool. We aim to update the auditor reporting tool twice per year – once for NHS and once for local government, however, due to the ongoing delays to local government opinions, reports have only been trickling through to us and even though we do our best to do some cross checks on local authority websites, finding the information is dependent on whether the authority itself has published the information at the time we do our update or can be hard to find.

We are hoping to do a further update to the tool this Autumn to take account of NHS 2022-23 and all local government. As you may know, Public Sector Auditor Appointments (PSAA) also publish data on their website regarding the status of audit opinions on the financial statements for principal authorities that have chosen to opt into their national scheme to appoint an auditor. However, PSAA's information regarding the status of audits is reliant on information provided to them by auditors.

Annex B

Statement of Policy

Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. I therefore hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not, then you should take the following steps.

In the first instance, within 40 working days, write to the National Audit Office Freedom of Information (FOI) Team at FOI.requests@nao.org.uk or by post to:

FOI Team, Green 2, National Audit Office, 157-197 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 9SP.

The Head of FOI will arrange a review, which will be conducted by a senior member of staff who was not involved in decisions relating to your original request. Once the review has been completed, we will write informing you of the outcome. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints. Alternatively, you can contact the ICO at [Contact us | ICO](#) or Information Commissioner's Office Wycliffe House Water Lane Wilmslow Cheshire SK9 5AF.