

Press release: October 2017

Transaction Data

This data provides information about the number and types of applications that HM Land Registry completed in October 2017.

In October:

- HM Land Registry completed more than 1,740,000 applications to change or query the Land Register
- the South East topped the table of regional applications with 407,148

The transaction data shows HM Land Registry completed 1,740,068 applications in October compared with 1,586,987 in September and 1,532,007 last October, of which:

- 408,685 were applications to update existing titles compared with 363,990 in September
- 823,267 were applications to obtain an official copy of a register compared with 747,090 in September
- 226,488 were official searches compared with 210,805 in September
- 26,260 were postal applications from non-account holders, compared with 24,136 in September

Applications by region and country

Region and country	August 2017 applications	September 2017 applications	October 2017 applications
South East	392,737	372,168	407,148
Greater London	313,338	298,966	329,865
North West	186,030	176,591	195,045
South West	164,325	155,495	168,802
West Midlands	143,074	135,283	145,121
Yorkshire and the Humber	128,718	122,127	135,347
East Midlands	115,673	111,411	120,689
North	76,810	72,506	82,710
Wales	79,289	76,292	80,938
East Anglia	71,789	66,034	74,202
Isles of Scilly	47	47	106

Region and country	August 2017 applications	September 2017 applications	October 2017 applications
England and Wales (not assigned)	87	67	95
Total	1,671,917	1,586,987	1,740,068

Top 5 local authority areas

Top 5 local authority areas	August applications	Top 5 local authority areas	September applications	Top 5 local authority areas	October applications
Birmingham	25,179	Birmingham	23,631	Birmingham	26,232
City of Westminster	21,516	City of Westminster	20,892	City of Westminster	24,087
Leeds	19,102	Leeds	18,076	Leeds	19,895
Manchester	17,499	Cornwall	16,809	Manchester	17,810
Cornwall	17,193	Manchester	16,290	Cornwall	17,794

Top 5 customers

Top 5 customers	August applications	Top 5 customers	September applications	Top 5 customers	October applications
Enact	37,513	Enact	39,349	Enact	48,058
O'Neill Patient	26,888	O'Neill Patient	24,273	O'Neill Patient	24,610
Optima Legal Service	21,031	Optima Legal Service	20,688	Optima Legal Service	23,721
Eversheds LLP	20,189	Eversheds LLP	18,307	HBOS Bank PLC	20,980
HBOS Bank PLC	18,235	Barclays Bank PLC	16,491	Eversheds LLP	19,123

[Access the full dataset](#) on data.gov.uk.

Notes to editors

1. Transaction Data is published on the 15th working day of each month. The November Transaction Data will be published at 11am on Thursday 21 December 2017 at [HM Land Registry Monthly Property Transaction Data](#).
2. The monthly Transaction Data showing how many applications for new titles, leases, splitting titles, updating existing titles, official copies of the register and searches were completed, reflects the volume of applications lodged by customers using an HM Land Registry account number on their application form.
3. Completed applications in England and Wales shown by region and by local authority include postal applications as well as those sent electronically.
4. Transaction Data excludes pending applications, withdrawn applications, bankruptcy applications, bulk applications and discharge applications.

5. Transactions for value are applications lodged involving a transfer of ownership for value. Discharge applications remove a charge, for example a mortgage, from the register. For an explanation of other terms used, see [abbreviations used in the transaction data](#).
6. Most searches carried out by a solicitor or conveyancer are to protect the purchase and/or mortgage. For example, a search will give the buyer priority for an application to HM Land Registry to register the purchase of the property. This can give an indication of market activity.
7. Reasonable skill and care is used in the provision of the data. We strive to ensure that the data is as accurate as possible but cannot guarantee that it is free from error. We cannot guarantee our data is fit for your intended purpose or use.
8. Transaction Data is available free of charge for use and re-use under the [Open Government Licence](#) (OGL). The licence allows public bodies to make their data available for re-use.
9. If you use or publish the Transaction Data, you must add the following attribution statement: "Contains HM Land Registry data © Crown copyright and database right 2017. This data is licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0".
10. HM Land Registry's mission is to guarantee and protect property rights in England and Wales.
11. HM Land Registry is a government department created in 1862. It operates as an executive agency and a trading fund and its running costs are covered by the fees paid by the users of its services. Its ambition is to become the world's leading land registry for speed, simplicity and an open approach to data.
12. HM Land Registry safeguards land and property ownership worth more than £4 trillion, including more than £1 trillion of mortgages. The Land Register contains more than 24 million titles, which show evidence of ownership, covering more than 84% of the land mass.
13. For further information about HM Land Registry visit www.gov.uk/land-registry
14. Follow us on:

Contact

[Press release: No escape from illegal worker fine for Coventry clothing company director](#)

Mr Dewitt gave a disqualification undertaking to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy for six years which is effective from 27 November 2017.

Mr Dewitt was the director of Mystique Coventry Ltd, a company trading as a clothing wholesaler, and on 15 November 2016 Home Office Immigration Enforcement Officers discovered that they were employing seven workers who were not eligible to work in the UK.

The company went into liquidation on 16 March 2017 owing £74,394 to creditors, including the £70,000 penalty imposed by the Home Office Immigration and Enforcement for employing illegal workers.

Martin Gitner, Deputy Head of Investigations with the Insolvency Service said:

Illegal workers are not protected under employment law, and as well as cheating legitimate job seekers out of employment opportunities these employers defraud the tax payer and undercut honest competitors.

The Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, makes employers responsible for preventing illegal workers in the UK. To comply with the law, a company must check and be able to prove documents have been checked prior to recruitment that show a person is entitled to work.

The public has a right to expect that those who break the law will face the consequences and this should serve as a warning to other directors tempted to take on illegal staff.

Mr Ajay Dewitt, date of birth June 1988 and he resides in Bedworth, Coventry.

Mystique Coventry Limited, company number 10000072 was incorporated on 11 February 2016.

Mr Dewitt was a director from 11 February 2016 to liquidation. The Company went into Creditors Voluntary Liquidation on 16 March 2017 with an estimated deficiency of £68,125.

On 06 November 2017, the Secretary of State accepted a Disqualification Undertaking from Mr Dewitt, effective from 27 November, for a period of 6 years.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#).

The Insolvency Service, an executive agency sponsored by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), administers the insolvency regime, and aims to deliver and promote a range of investigation and enforcement activities both civil and criminal in nature, to support fair and open markets. We do this by effectively enforcing the statutory company and insolvency regimes, maintaining public confidence in those regimes and reducing the harm caused to victims of fraudulent activity and to the business community, including dealing with the disqualification of directors in corporate failures.

BEIS' mission is to build a dynamic and competitive UK economy that works for all, in particular by creating the conditions for business success and promoting an open global economy. The Criminal Investigations and Prosecutions team contributes to this aim by taking action to deter fraud and to regulate the market. They investigate and prosecute a range of offences, primarily relating to personal or company insolvencies.

The agency also authorises and regulates the insolvency profession, assesses and pays statutory entitlement to redundancy payments when an employer cannot or will not pay employees, provides banking and investment services for bankruptcy and liquidation estate funds and advises ministers and other government departments on insolvency law and practice.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is [available](#).

Media enquiries for this press release – 020 7596 6187

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[News story: Extensive track damage between Ferryside and Llangennech](#)

Between about 06:50 hrs and 08:14 hrs on Monday 30 October 2017, train reporting number 6B13, the 05:00 hrs DB Cargo service from Robeston (Milford Haven) to Westerleigh, caused extensive damage to the track that it travelled over on the part of its journey between Ferryside and Llangennech. The train stopped on the approach to Llangyfelach tunnel, about 70 miles leaving Robeston, when the driver was told of a possible problem. Subsequent examination by Network Rail found at least nine broken rails, and damage to level crossings and signalling equipment.

The train consisted of a locomotive and 29 loaded tank wagons. Examination of the leading wagon found that the brake rigging on the leading bogie had disintegrated, and that the trailing pair of wheels on that bogie had suffered significant damage (wheel flats). Some of the components of the braking system were hanging down and dragging along the track, and others were missing altogether.

The leading wagon was loaded with 76 tonnes of diesel fuel. The following 28 wagons, also loaded with petroleum products, passed over each rail break without derailing.

The RAIB's preliminary examination has concluded that the brakes of all the wagons in the train were almost certainly properly released when the train left Robeston. It appears at present that one set of wheels ceased to rotate at some point during the journey, leading to the development of the wheel flats, and began to turn again in the Ferryside area. The impacts from the rotating, damaged, wheels gave rise to the broken rails, and may also have caused the disintegration of the brake rigging.

Our investigation will try to determine the sequence of events and find out why the wheels behaved in this way, and why the braking components failed. It will also examine how the developing incident was handled by the Network Rail operating staff along the route, and consider any underlying management factors.

Our investigation is independent of any investigation by the railway industry, or by the industry's regulator, the [Office of Rail and Road](#).

We will publish our findings, including any recommendations to improve safety, at the conclusion of our investigation. This report will be available on our website.

You can [subscribe](#) to automated emails notifying you when we publish our reports.

[News story: Shaping the qualifications landscape](#)

Event brings together employers, trailblazer groups and others to discuss the current qualifications landscape and the changes under way.

Ofqual is today (Tuesday 21 November) hosting an event for stakeholders to learn more about England's vocational and technical qualifications landscape. Around 90 representatives from employers, trailblazer groups, training providers and educational associations and organisations are attending the

symposium at the Royal Society in London. The event aims to raise awareness and understanding of the qualifications landscape, gather feedback from attendees on their use of qualifications and discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with reform. Ofqual is particularly keen to describe and discuss how regulation can potentially best support them.

Sally Collier said:

We want employers to be confident that vocational and technical qualifications meet their needs, and those of their employees. We are already supporting those aims through the experience and expertise we bring to regulation. Today's event provides another opportunity for us to listen to what users of qualifications have to say, and ensure that they are right at the forefront of shaping the new landscape.

Alongside today's event, we are releasing a range of reports and guidance. These include [findings from a review of nearly 100 apprenticeship assessment plans](#), which we have written to help current and future trailblazers develop these important documents. Another identifies the factors that contribute to the effective functioning of assessments through [a review of 27 vocational and technical qualifications found in performance tables](#). A further document reports on how [Applied General qualifications are viewed and used by stakeholders](#). Together, they provide a set of resources to help inform the effective development of new vocational and technical qualifications.

We are also launching the [prototype of a new interactive tool](#) today to help everyone navigate the current qualifications landscape. This innovative way of visualising data makes our register of regulated qualifications more accessible and easier to explore.

[Press release: Drug company accused of abusing its position to overcharge the NHS](#)

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has been investigating how much the pharmaceutical company was charging for liothyronine tablets. It found that last year, the NHS spent more than £34 million on the drug, an increase from around £600,000 in 2006. The amount it paid per pack rose from around £4.46 before it was de-branded in 2007 to £258.19 by July 2017, an increase of almost 6,000%, while production costs remained broadly stable.

Liothyronine tablets are primarily used to treat hypothyroidism, a condition

caused by a deficiency of thyroid hormone affecting at least 2 in every 100 people and which can lead to depression, tiredness and weight gain. Although liothyronine tablets are not the primary treatment for hypothyroidism, for many patients there is no suitable alternative and, until earlier this year, Concordia was the only supplier.

CMA Chief Executive, Andrea Coscelli, said:

Pharmaceutical companies which abuse their position and overcharge for drugs are forcing the NHS – and the UK taxpayer – to pay over the odds for important medical treatments.

We allege that Concordia used its market dominance in the supply of liothyronine tablets to do exactly that.

At this stage in the investigation, our findings are provisional and there has been no definitive decision that there has been a breach of competition law. We will carefully consider any representations from the companies before deciding whether the law has in fact been broken.

The CMA is addressing its Statement of Objections to Concordia, as well as to Cinven and HgCapital – private equity firms and previous owners of entities now forming part of Concordia. All now have an opportunity to respond to the provisional findings set out in the Statement of Objections.

This is one of a number of CMA cases in the pharmaceutical sector, including a recent fine against [Pfizer and Flynn Pharma of nearly £90 million](#) in relation to excessive and unfair prices for anti-epilepsy treatment, phenytoin sodium capsules, in respect of which the CMA's decision is currently under appeal. The CMA also fined [a number of pharmaceutical companies a total of £45 million](#) in relation to anti-depressant medicine paroxetine; that decision is also under appeal. The CMA is pursuing another 7 investigations into several companies in relation to drug pricing and competition issues. These can all be viewed on the [CMA's case pages](#).

Notes to editors

1. The CMA is the UK's primary competition and consumer authority. It is an independent non-ministerial government department with responsibility for carrying out investigations into mergers, markets and the regulated industries and enforcing competition and consumer protection laws.
2. The CMA is addressing the Statement of Objections to Mercury Pharmaceuticals Limited, Concordia International Rx (UK) Limited, Mercury Pharma Group Limited and Concordia International Corporation, as well as to HgCapital LLP and to Cinven (Luxco 1) S.A., Cinven Capital Management (V) General Partner Limited and Cinven Partners LLP.
3. A Statement of Objections gives parties notice of a proposed infringement decision under the competition law prohibitions in the Competition Act 1998 and the EU law equivalents. It is a provisional

decision only and does not necessarily lead to an infringement decision. Parties have the opportunity to make written and oral representations on the matters set out in the Statement of Objections. Any such representations will be considered by the CMA before any final decision is made. The final decision will be taken by a case decision group, which is separate from the case investigation team and was not involved in the decision to issue the Statement of Objections.

4. The Statement of Objections will not be published. However, any person who wishes to comment on the CMA's provisional findings, and who is in a position materially to assist the CMA in testing its factual, legal or economic arguments, may request a non-confidential version of the Statement of Objections by contacting the CMA.
5. The CMA may impose a financial penalty (ie a fine) on any business found to have infringed each of these provisions of up to 10% of its annual worldwide group turnover. In calculating financial penalties, the CMA takes into account a number of factors including the seriousness of the infringement, turnover in the relevant market and any mitigating or aggravating factors.
6. Media queries should be directed to press@cma.gsi.gov.uk, on 020 3738 6337.