After monitoring the performance of 33 public authorities, the UK Information Commissioner’s Office has found that several organisations, including the Cabinet Office, the Ministry of Defence and Birmingham City Council have failed to reduce the time taken to respond to Freedom of Information requests.

The authorities were monitored over a period of three months from 1st October to 31st December 2010 and the ICO is now in discussions with some of the organisations about the improvements they should put in place, as well as the appropriate regulatory action.

In addition, the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, the London Borough of Islington, Wolverhampton City Council and Westminster City Council have been asked to sign undertakings to improve their performance in this area.

Information Commissioner, Christopher Graham, said: “I am delighted that over two thirds of the authorities whose performance we have been monitoring have managed to overcome their problems. However, the remaining authorities have not done enough to convince us that they have a clear and credible plan for getting back on track.

“Over the next four weeks, we shall be discussing appropriate next steps with them.”

No action is being taken against the remaining 26 authorities because they have maintained or improved their response times sufficiently.

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