

Access to documents applications in 2021

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Report on access to documents applications received during 2021

Article 17 of Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to documents requires each Institution to publish annually a report for the preceding year including the number of cases in which the Institution refused to grant access to documents, and the reasons for such refusals.

The figures for ECDC for 2021 are provided below. They do not include TESSy requests as they are processed in accordance with the TESSy policy.

Access to documents in 2021: initial applications

In 2021 ECDC received a total of **73 initial applications**.

Of those: 22 resulted in full access, 26 in partial access, and 23 in refusals. In 2 cases ECDC was unable to process the requests (lack of requirements, failure to provide clarifications).

When redacting documents, ECDC applied the following exceptions under Article 4 of Regulation 1049/2001:

- protection of the privacy and the integrity of the individual,
- protection of commercial interest of a natural or legal person,
- protection of the decision-making process,
- protection of the purpose of inspections, investigations, and audits.

ECDC processed 61 applications in English, 5 in Spanish, 4 in Swedish, 2 in Italian, 1 in German.

ECDC estimates that around one third of the applications were submitted by private persons, around one third by media representatives and the rest by researchers or legal entities (exact figures cannot be provided as there is no requirement for applicants to identify in which capacity they submit their applications).

Access to documents in 2021: confirmatory applications

ECDC processed **6 confirmatory applications**: in 2 cases, ECDC reviewed its initial decision and disclosed additional documents.

In 4 cases, ECDC confirmed the initial decision and refused disclosure applying the exceptions that safeguard the privacy and integrity of individuals, the decision-making process of the Agency and the purpose of inspections, investigations, and audits.

Other requests

In addition to the initial and confirmatory applications, the access to document Coordinator and the Legal Services received **another 47** requests that initially had been qualified as applications for access to documents and only at the second stage requalified as applications for access to information.