

Chapter 2. Status of the Reporting System under the Ethics Act

1. Outline of the Reporting System

Three kinds of reporting systems are established in the Ethics Act to secure transparency of relations between national public employees and business operators, etc. The outline of each reporting system is as follows.

(1) System for Reporting Receipts of Gifts, and System for Requesting Permission to Inspect Such Reports

- i) When officials at the rank of assistant director and above at the HQ receive gifts from business operators exceeding 5,000 yen in value, they must submit a quarterly report on the receipt of such gifts to the heads of each ministry and agency (Article 6 of the Ethics Act). The heads of each ministry and agency must then send copies of such reports submitted by an official at the rank of Designated Service to the Ethics Board.
- ii) Furthermore, from the perspective of preventing the receipt of inappropriate gifts through ensuring transparency in relationships between officials and business operators, the system has been established whereby anyone can request permission to inspect reports on gifts that exceed 20,000 yen in value (Article 9, Paragraph (2) of the Ethics Act).

(2) Reports on Share Dealings, etc.

Each official at the rank of deputy director-general and above at the HQ must submit a report on share dealings, etc., if he/she has purchased or transferred shares during the previous year. The report must be submitted to the heads of each ministry and agency during the period of Mar. 1 to Mar. 31 each year (Article 7 of the Ethics Act).

The heads of each ministry and agency must then send copies of such reports to the Ethics Board.

(3) Reports on Income, etc.

Each official at the rank of deputy director-general and above at the HQ must submit a report on his/her income earned during the previous year. The report must be submitted to the heads of each ministry and agency during the period of Mar. 1 to Mar. 31 each year (Article 8 of the Ethics Act).

The heads of each ministry and agency must then send copies of such reports to the Ethics Board.

2. Reports Submitted in Recent Years

(1) Mandatory Reports on the Receipt of Gifts, etc.

The total numbers of reports on the receipt of gifts, etc. submitted by officials categorized as Designated Services from FY2013 to FY2017 are as follows.

Table 1 Reports on Receipts of Gifts, etc. (FY2013-2017)

FY	Category	Gifts of Money, Goods		Offering of Food and Drink		Rewards		Total
		No. of cases	%	No. of cases	%	No. of cases	%	No. of cases
FY2013		48	1.2	2,434	60.6	1,536	38.2	4,018
FY2014		93	2.1	2,610	59.7	1,671	38.2	4,374
FY2015		95	2.8	2,552	74.9	761	22.3	3,408
FY2016		75	2.3	2,464	75.5	724	22.2	3,263
FY2017		53	1.6	2,680	78.9	663	19.5	3,396

The majority of “gifts of money, goods” shown in the table include food/alcohol, books, and tickets. The major providers of “food and drink” are incorporated foundations, incorporated associations, private enterprises, and mass media. The majority of “rewards” include payments for writing, royalties on books, and payments for lectures and editing.

The number of officials who submitted reports in FY2017 was 800.

(2) Mandatory Reports on Share Dealings, etc.

The total numbers of reports on share dealings, etc. submitted by officials at the rank of deputy director-general and above at the HQ from 2013 to 2017 are as follows.

Table 2 Reports on Share Dealings, etc. (2013-2017)

CY	Category	Number of Reports	Number of Transactions (Acquisition and Transfer)				Total Number of Transactions
			Trades on Stock Markets	Inheritance /Donation	Stock Exchange/ Stock Split	Unlisted Stocks	
2013		78	457	26	84	1	568
2014		47	262	20	22	3	307
2015		50	465	11	39	0	515
2016		43	237	33	20	2	292
2017		56	734	7	38	1	780

(3) Mandatory Reports on Income, etc.

The total numbers of reports on income, etc. submitted by officials at the rank of deputy director-general and above at the HQ from 2013 to 2017 are as follows.

Table 3 Reports on Income, etc. (2013-2017)

CY	Category	Number of Reports	Consisting Solely of Regular Pay		Including Income other than Regular Pay	
			No. of cases	Rate (%)	No. of cases	Rate (%)
2013		1,338	871	65.1	467	34.9
2014		1,368	897	65.6	471	34.4
2015		1,279	912	71.3	367	28.7
2016		1,330	940	70.7	390	29.3
2017		1,340	944	70.4	396	29.6