



Ministry of Justice

Justice Statistics Analytical Services
Ministry of Justice
London
SW1H 9AJ

Email: statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk

Kris Bolton

csedatauk@gmail.com

Our Reference: 341-16 FOI 105913

21 June 2016

Freedom of Information Request

Dear Mr Bolton

Thank you for your email of 11 June 2016, in which you ask for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Could the Department provide any information held or reports commissioned relating to Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and/or Child Protection within the last five years?

Specifically any information containing statistics which give an idea of the current problem on a national and on a local level. The definition of a child being anyone below aged eighteen.

And if available statistics covering the (in the last five years):

Number of children “at risk” of CSE.

Number of children known for child protection purposes.

Number of children involved in prostitution.

Number of children who have been trafficked.

Number of children reported to have runaway.

Number of children who have been sexually abused.

Number of children who have been physically abused.

Number of children who have been emotionally abused.

Number of rape cases involving victims who are below age sixteen and eighteen.

Number of children cautioned, arrested or charged for drug possession.

Number of perpetrators of sexual crimes against children.

Number of perpetrators of physical crimes against children.

Number of rapists whose victims are below age sixteen and eighteen.

Number of rape cases (in which the victim is below sixteen and eighteen) which were closed due to the victim not cooperating.

Number of people charged with managing or owning a brothel, pimping or pandering in which their workers were aged below sixteen and eighteen.

And any other relevant statistics.

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If available could the statistics be provided for both children below age sixteen (0-16) and below age eighteen (0-18), it is appreciated.

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the Ministry of Justice holds some of the information that you have asked for and I am pleased to provide this to you.

The number of juvenile offenders cautioned for drug possession offences, by the requested age split, in England and Wales, from 2011 to 2015, can be viewed in the attached table.

I can confirm that the Department does not hold the information you requested concerning anything other than the cautioning data referred to above.

I conducted a thorough search, and made enquiries within the Criminal Justice System Statistics Team within Justice Statistics Analytical Services. When assessing whether or not information was held adequate and reasonable searches for the requested information were made of:

- Electronic records on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database.

If the information was held by MoJ it would have to be held by the above mentioned business area. It may help if I clarify that information is not held by MoJ because there is no legal or business requirement for MoJ to hold the information being requested.

The MoJ Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales.

Responsibility for statistics concerning recorded crime falls within the remit of the Home Office. The Home Office also holds ultimate policy responsibility for sexual offences. You can contact or make a request to the Home Office by using the following link:

foirequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Data on charges, including whether or not a decision is taken not to charge a suspect, is held by the Crown Prosecution Service, which can be contacted via the below link

<http://www.cps.gov.uk/foi/>

Policy on children and social work as a whole is held by the Department for Education, which may as a result be able to assist with some of your queries. Their contact details are provided below.

<https://www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus>

It is also possible that some parts of your request may be covered by the Crime Survey for England and Wales, carried out by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). The ONS can be contacted by the below link:-

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfo/i/makingarequest>

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Arrest data would be held by the 43 police forces in England and Wales, which have their own FoI processes.

Please be advised that the FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. It does not place a duty upon public authorities to answer a question unless recorded information exists. The FOIA duty is to only provide the recorded information held.

You can find out more about information held for the purposes of the Act by reading some guidance points we consider when processing a request for information, attached at the end of this letter.

You can also find more information by reading the full text of the Act, available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>.

You have the right to appeal our decision if you think it is incorrect. Details can be found in the 'How to Appeal' section attached at the end of this letter.

Disclosure Log

You can also view information that the Ministry of Justice has disclosed in response to previous Freedom of Information requests. Responses are anonymised and published on our on-line disclosure log which can be found on the MoJ website: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/information-access-rights/foi-requests/latest-moj-disclosure-log>

The published information is categorised by subject area and in alphabetical order

Yours sincerely

David Carmichael
Justice Statistics Analytical Services

How to Appeal

Internal Review

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to an internal review. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will make a decision as to whether we answered your request correctly.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to the Data Access and Compliance Unit within two months of the date of this letter, at the following address:

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Data Access and Compliance Unit (10.34),
Information & Communications Directorate,
Ministry of Justice,
102 Petty France,
London
SW1H 9AJ

E-mail: data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Information Commissioner's Office

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct us to respond to your request differently, if he considers that we have handled it incorrectly.

You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Internet address: https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact_us.aspx

EXPLANATION OF INFORMATION HELD FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE ACT

We have provided below additional information for information held for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. We have included some of the guidance we use when considering requests for information. I hope you find this information useful.

Is the information 'held' for the purposes of the Act?

A person may request any information 'held' in any recorded form by a public authority (or held by another on behalf of a public authority).

If the requester is asking for an opinion on an issue or asking for information that is not already held to be created, this is not a Freedom of Information Act request.

Information covered by the Act

All recorded information 'held' by a public authority is within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act. It includes files, letters, emails and photographs and extends to closed files and archived material.

Recorded information

The right of access applies to information recorded in any form. This includes:

- information that is held electronically (such as on a laptop computer or an electronic records management system)
- information that is recorded on paper (such as a letter, memorandum or papers in a file)
- sound and video recordings (such as a CD or videotape)
- hand-written notes or comments, including those written in note pads or on Post-it notes

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Is the information 'held' under the Freedom of Information Act?

'Holding' information includes holding a copy of a record produced or supplied by someone else. However, if a public authority only holds information on behalf of someone else, for example a department holding trade union information on their computer system, then that public authority may not have to provide the information in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

In some cases, it may not be clear whether information which is physically present on your premises or systems is properly to be regarded as 'held' by your public authority, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act. Examples include:

- private material brought into the office by ministers or officials
- material belonging to other people or bodies
- trade union material
- constituency material
- material relating to party political matters.