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| MoJ_mono_H_crest | |  | **Justice Statistics Analytical** **Services**  Ministry of Justice  102 Petty France  London SW1H 9AJ  **E-mail Enquiries**  [statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk)  **Website**  <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice> |
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|  | Our Reference: FOI/106699 |  |  |

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in which you clarified your original request below.

**1. (a) A breakdown of crimes committed by people while they were on bail. I.e. how many thefts, murders, assaults, etc.**

**(b) What proportion are the above figures when compared to overall national crime rates? I.e. what proportion of crimes are committed by people on bail - and then broken down by the types of crime.**

**2. (a) A breakdown of crimes committed by people while they have escaped or absconded from prison. I.e. how many thefts, murders, assaults, etc.**

**(b) What proportion are the above figures when compared to overall national crime rates? I.e. what proportion of crimes are committed by people while they have escaped or absconded from prison - and then broken down by the types of crime**

Clarification:

**If possible, I would like this information broken down per year, for the last 3 years. However, if collecting this amount of data would exceed the FOI time limits, I would be happy to just receive the figures for last year.**

**I do not mind if this is in calendar years, or financial years -- whichever is easier.**

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

I can confirm that the department holds the information that you have requested. The attached annex shows the number of recorded offences resulting in a caution, reprimand, warning or conviction committed by offenders on bail in England and Wales, 2013 – 2015. Please note the caveats included with the table.

It is not possible to distinguish whether an offender was on (a) court bail or (b) police bail when the offence was committed. Similarly, the information on bail does not record whether conditions were attached to bail nor does it indicate the nature of the earlier offence for which the bail was granted.

Extreme care should be taken when interpreting these figures. Information held centrally by the MoJ regarding offences committed on bail is known to have inaccuracies and does not necessarily represent all the facts in each individual case. There is no mandatory requirement for information in relation to offences committed whilst an individual is on bail to be recorded on the PNC, as police forces will use local systems to manage the defendant population on bail in their jurisdiction.

With regards to questions **1 (b), 2 (a),** and **2 (b**, I can confirm that the MoJ does not hold this information.

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

* **The MoJ’s extract of the Police National Computer (PNC)**

If the information was held by MoJ, it would have to be held by the above mentioned business areas. 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.

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 also find more information by reading the full text of the FOIA (available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>)

Yours sincerely

**Justice Statistics Analytical** **Services**