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| Ministry of Justice | Data Access & Compliance UnitMinistry of Justice102 Petty France LondonSW1H 9AJdata.access@justice.gsi.gov.ukJuly 2017 |

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request –** 110993

Thank you for your request in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**Can you provide the following, from 2011 to 2017, broken down by each financial year?**

**1. How many people, convicted of rape in each of the last six years, had at least one previous conviction of rape?**

**2. How many people, convicted of rape in each of the last six years, had at least one previous conviction of a sexual assault?**

**I wish to be informed in writing whether you have such information and, if so, I seek the disclosure of that information. If the information is covered by any exemptions, please disclose such information as is not covered by the exemptions.**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and I have provided it below. Please note that the data for October 2016 to March 2017 is not yet available. The figures provided in the table are for the last six complete financial years for which data is available.

**Table 1: Number of offenders convicted1 of rape2 by financial year, England and Wales3, 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2016**



Data for October 2016 to March 2017 is exempt from disclosure under section 22(1) of the FOIA, because it is intended for future publication. This is a qualified exemption which means that the decision to disclose the information is subject to the public interest test. When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

**Public interest considerations favouring disclosure**

* The principles of openness and transparency encourage departments to make as much information as possible available to keep the public informed and ensure that government is held accountable for its decisions.

**Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information**

* It is important to allow sufficient time to process and check the data before it is released. If the figures are inaccurate releasing them would spread misleading information and reduce public trust in statistics released by the department.
* It is also important to adhere to the existing publication process which ensures that the data is made available to everyone at the same time. Releasing the information early undermines the principle of fair access.

On balance the public interest test favours withholding the data at this time.

Data on the criminal history of offenders convicted between October and December 2016 is due to be published in May 2017. Similar data for offenders convicted between January and March 2017 is due to be published in August 2017.

Public protection is our priority and we take the management and treatment of prisoners convicted of sexual offences very seriously.

When serious further offences occur a full review is carried out to identify any lessons for the better management of future cases.

Our wholescale reforms will lay the groundwork to transform our prisons, reduce reoffending and make our communities safer.

Yours sincerely

Justice Statistics Analytical Services