



Disclosure Team
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

XXXX
XXXX

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

February 2019

Dear XXXX

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 190108015

You asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) :

- **How many convictions for offences related to the production of cannabis have there been in each of the last ten years**
- **How many people have been acquitted after facing such charges in each of the last ten years**
- **How much money approximately has been spent on enforcing cannabis prohibition laws overall by the MOJ each year**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

It has been passed to me because I have responsibility for answering requests relating to data in Her Majesty’s Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). HMCTS is an executive agency of the MoJ and is responsible for the administration of the magistrates' courts, the Crown Court, the County Court, the Family Court, the High Court, Court of Appeal and tribunals in England and Wales and non-devolved tribunals in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds some of the information that you have requested and I have provided it below.

Regarding your first two Questions, whilst our Magistrates Courts case management and management information systems only hold the data requested for the last nine years, for Crown Courts we hold ten years data and that is presented below.

Specifically relating to the production of Cannabis, I can tell you that:

Convictions and Acquittals related to the production of cannabis				
Year	Magistrates Courts		Crown Courts	
	Convictions	Acquittals	Convictions	Acquittals
2008-2009	NA	NA	615	20
2009-2010	3435	275	1142	24
2010-2011	4582	328	1793	52

2011-2012	4479	309	2500	69
2012-2013	4517	255	2493	61
2013-2014	4331	104	2606	65
2014-2015	3539	45	2642	72
2015-2016	2965	42	2344	65
2016-2017	2495	33	1602	50
2017-2018	1737	33	1226	44

Notes regarding the above data

- Figures quoted for the Magistrates' Courts are for each instance that relates to the production of Cannabis which resulted in either a conviction or an acquittal in the Financial Year specified, rather than a count of defendants or cases, and include those offences which were Committed to the Crown Court for Sentence.
- The Crown Court data relate to the number of defendants convicted or acquitted of cannabis production related offences. Conviction figures are for those defendants convicted of at least one offence. Acquitted figures are for those defendants who were acquitted of at least one offence and not found guilty on any other.
- Data are taken from a live management information systems and can change over time.
- Data are management information and are not subject to the same level of checks as official statistics.
- Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that the data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when data are used.
- The data provided is the most recent available and for that reason might differ slightly from any previously published information.
- Data has not been cross referenced with case files.

Regarding your third Question, the MoJ does not hold the information in the scope of your request. The cost data held in HMCTS financial accounting and management accounting systems is not structured by offence type. This is because there is no legal or business requirement for MoJ to do so.

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty is to only provide the recorded information held.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response.

data.access@justice.gov.uk

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice, 10.38, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

XXXX