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|  | **Our Reference:** FOI 108286 |   | June 2016 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

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

**Please provide data for the 2015 calendar year.**

1. **How many persons aged 10 and 11 were (a) given a**

**Reprimand / warning /caution, (b) sentenced in a court and (c) given a term of immediate imprisonment.**

**2. Please provide a complete breakdown by sex and the full range of**

 **Individual criminal indictable offences how many persons aged 10 and**

 **11 were (a) cautioned and (b) convicted of each crime.**

**3. Please provide a table for (a) all juveniles and (b) persons aged 10 and 11, which display the number of juvenile offenders cautioned or sentenced for recordable offences by their previous criminal history using the number of their previous convictions/cautions in the following groupings (0, 1-2, 3-6, 7-10, 11-14, 15-20, 21-25, 25-49, 50+).**

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

I can confirm that the department holds the information and it is provided in the attached tables. I have also provided some context for your information:

The aim of the youth justice system is to prevent offending by children and young people. Having the age of criminal responsibility set at 10 allows flexibility to deal with young offenders at an early stage to prevent further offending and reflects the requirements of our justice system. Prosecution is not always the most appropriate response to youth offending. That is why most young offenders in this age group are diverted from the criminal justice system or dealt with by way of an out-of-court disposal as an alternative means of preventing reoffending.