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| Ministry of Justice | June 2017 |

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request –** 111870

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

**Q1 How many people have been convicted with ‘coercive control’ under the new law which came into force on 29 December 2015?**

**a) Greater Manchester area**

**b) Cheshire area**

**c) Total U.K**

**Q2. How many people have been given a custodial sentence when convicted with ‘coercive control’ under the new law which came into force on 29 December 2015?**

**a) Greater Manchester area**

**b) Cheshire area**

**c) Total U.K**

**Q3. How many people (from Q2) we're given a suspended sentence?**

**a) Greater Manchester area**

**b) Cheshire area**

**c) Total U.K**

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 in the attached table, which provides the number of offenders found guilty and sentenced at all courts of offences related to ‘coercive control’, in England and Wales, with the specific police force breakdowns requested, for 2016 (latest available).

There no findings of guilt for this offence in 2015. Please note that this is applicable under the footnote in the table carrying 2016 data.

Please note that this offence, which was introduced under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015, does not extend to Scotland and Northern Ireland. Please refer to the below link explaining the extent of the sections of the Act, including the territorial provisions of the Act.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/9/section/87/enacted>

Information which covers 2017 is exempt from disclosure under section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA, which refers to prohibitions on disclosure ‘by or under any enactment’ of the FOIA. In this case, the information you are seeking is prohibited by the Statistics and Registration Services (SRS) Act 2007 and the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008.

The information you have requested is a subset of the Criminal Justice Statistics data held in its final form which we routinely publish. It is intended for publication on 17 May 2018. As such we are required to consider your request in a manner compliant with the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008 further to sections 11 and 13 of the (SRS Act 2007).

The MoJ is obliged under section 13 of the SRS Act to continue to comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics (the Code) for statistics designated as National Statistics. Section 11(3) of the SRS Act regards the Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics Order as being included in the Code. Protocol 2 of the Code reflects the requirements of the Pre-Release Access to Statistics Order. Specifically, it requires producers of official statistics to ensure that no indication of the substance of a statistical report is made public, or given to the media or any other party not recorded as eligible for access prior to publication. I can confirm that the MoJ does publish information on findings of guilt and sentencing for offences of coercive control, for 2017, as part of National Statistics. Therefore, to now disclose as part of your FOI request, will violate the provisions of section 13 of the SRS Act and the Pre-Release Access Order to Official Statistics 2008 and as such engages the exemption under section 44(1)(a) of the FOIA.

Section 44 is an absolute exemption and does not require a public interest test.

The information for 2017 is also exempt from disclosure under section 22(1) of the FOIA, because it is intended for future publication on 17 May 2018.