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 February 2017

Our Ref: FOI/106033

**Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your email refining your original request to:

**Please could I have for the Metropolitan Police area:**

* **Table 3**
* **If possible could it be from the legislation change on 17th July 2015 but would also be useful to compare it with previous years if possible?**
* **If possible to break it down to adults and juveniles**
* **If possible to show immediate custodial and suspended custodial**

**The data published in table 4 unfortunately is not what I need as it includes cautions as well and I am specifically trying to answer the question in relation to two strikes and how many people in London have received a custodial sentence?**

Your original request asked the following:

**I was very interested in reading the attached bulletin.**

**I am wondering whether it is possible to break down the results into forces?**

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

I can confirm that the department holds some of the information that you have requested and I can provide it in the attached tables.

In regards to the first part of your question;

**Table 1** presents data on knife possession offences by age group resulting in an immediate custodial sentence, for the Metropolitan Police force, 12 months ending March 2009 to 12 months ending March 2016.

In the quarterly figures the small number of juvenile offenders (those aged 10-17) means that the percentage in each sentence length group and the average custodial sentence length are volatile and strongly influenced by individual values. Therefore only annual figures are given. For the same reason, average immediate custody length is provided only for all knife possession offences and not for each of the individual offence types as in table 3 of the publication.

Only those offenders who were sentenced to immediate custody for knife possession offences have been included in Table 1. Suspended sentence have been excluded from this table, as they have been in Table 3 of the publication.

It is not possible, based on how the information is recorded to provide equivalent or further statistics for table 3 in relation to the new legislation[[1]](#footnote-1) that came into effect on 17th of July 2015 based on the 259 days of data which are currently available.

For more information on the two strike knife possession offences that is currently available, along with information about this new sentencing guidelines, please see pages 5, 9-10 and

Annex C of the Knife Possession Sentencing Quarterly, England and Wales

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/knife-possession-sentencing-quarterly-brief-january-to-march-2016>

The figures provided have been drawn from an extract of the Police National Computer (PNC) data held by the Department. The PNC holds details of all convictions and cautions given for recordable offences and include a number of offences where it is not possible for offenders to be given a custodial sentence. As with any large scale recording system the PNC is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing so data provided may be subject to revision.

Yours sincerely

**Justice Statistics Analytical Services**

1. [*http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/2/part/1/crossheading/repeat-offences-involving-offensive-weapons-etc*](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/2/part/1/crossheading/repeat-offences-involving-offensive-weapons-etc) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)