|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ministry of Justice | Disclosure Team  Ministry of Justice  102 Petty France  London  SW1H 9AJ  [data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk)  January 2018 |

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 171227001**

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

**I've previously asked the Home Office about this but have been referred to you guys! I am writing to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please could you tell me, for the last ten years:**

**What percentage of people with criminal records (including cautions) for possessing Class A & B drugs (no supply, only possession) also have convictions for any other offences? If possible could this be broken down by offence and drug type (e.g. what percentage of those caught with heroin have also been convicted of theft, etc.)? If that exceeds the cost limit however, could this be divided into more generally Class A&B drugs, and then into violent, sexual and property crime?**

**If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.**

**I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this request. I would be grateful if you could confirm that you have received this request.**

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 attached.

The data included come from the MoJ extract of the Police National Computer (PNC). The PNC does not contain all criminal record information, as it only includes data on people who have received a caution or conviction for a recordable offence from 2000 onwards. However, as all possession offences for Class A and B drugs are recordable, and as your question only asks about the last 10 years, this should be sufficient to answer your request.

The table shows the number of people convicted or cautioned for a Class A or B drug possession offence in the last 10 years, and the percentage of those who had previously received a conviction or caution for another offence. As requested, this is broken down by offence and drug type.

Sentencing is entirely a matter for our independent courts, taking into account all the circumstances of each case. When deciding what sentence to impose the courts must also follow the sentencing guidelines, unless it is in the interests of justice not to do so, which are issued by the independent Sentencing Council.

Yours sincerely

Justice Statistics Analytical Services