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XXXX

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

March 2018

Dear XXXX

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests – 180202002, 180206006, 180207013 plus 180124032**

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

**FOIA Request 180202002**

- 1. How many individuals (petitioners) submitted divorce petitions in the last 12 months, in either the whole of England & Wales or if that's not possible then just London and the South East. The data would need to have geographical information for each individual – be that (in order of preference) postcode, borough or town.**
- 2. I would also like the same level of detail for financial orders – that is the number of financial orders applied for in the last 12 months in either the whole of England & Wales or if that's not possible then just London and the South East. The data would need to have geographical information for each individual – be that (in order of preference) postcode, borough or town.**

If either 1 or 2 are not possible the I would like to ask for the following:

- 1. How many individuals (petitioners) submitted divorce petitions in the last 12 months, for postcodes beginning with a. N (London) b. E (London) c. SE (London ) d. SW (London) e. W (London) f. NW (London) g. WC (London) h. E (London) i. SO21 (Winchester) j. SO22 (Winchester) k. SO23 (Winchester) l. AL1 (St Albans and surrounding area) m. AL2 (St Albans and surrounding area) n. AL3 (St Albans and surrounding area) o. AL4 (St Albans and surrounding area) p. AL5 (St Albans and surrounding area) q. AL6 (St Albans and surrounding area) r. AL7 (St Albans and surrounding area) s. AL8 (St Albans and surrounding area) t. AL9 (St Albans and surrounding area) u. AL10 (St Albans and surrounding area) v. TN1 – TN22 (Tunbridge Wells and surrounding area) w. TN22 – TN40 (Tunbridge Wells and surrounding area) x. KT (Surrey)**
- 2. How many individuals applied for financial orders in the last 12 months, for postcodes beginning with a. N (London) b. E (London) c. SE (London ) d. SW (London) e. W (London) f. NW (London) g. WC (London) h. E (London) i. SO21 (Winchester) j. SO22 (Winchester) k. SO23 (Winchester) l. AL1 (St Albans and surrounding area) m. AL2 (St Albans and surrounding area) n. AL3 (St Albans and surrounding area) o. AL4 (St Albans and surrounding area) p. AL5 (St Albans and surrounding area) q. AL6 (St Albans and surrounding area) r. AL7 (St Albans and surrounding area) s. AL8 (St Albans and surrounding area) t. AL9 (St Albans and surrounding area) u. AL10 (St Albans and surrounding area) v. TN1 – TN22 (Tunbridge**

Wells and surrounding area) w. TN22 – TN40 (Tunbridge Wells and surrounding area)  
x. KT (Surrey)

**FOIA Request 180206006**

1. The number of individuals (petitioners) who submitted divorce petitions in Jan 2016 – Dec 2016, in each of the following postcode areas: a. N (London) b. E (London) c. SE (London) d. SW (London) e. W (London) f. NW (London) g. WC (London) h. E (London) i. SO21 (Winchester) j. SO22 (Winchester) k. SO23 (Winchester) l. AL1 (St Albans and surrounding area) m. AL2 (St Albans and surrounding area) n. AL3 (St Albans and surrounding area) o. AL4 (St Albans and surrounding area) p. AL5 (St Albans and surrounding area) q. AL6 (St Albans and surrounding area) r. AL7 (St Albans and surrounding area) s. AL8 (St Albans and surrounding area) t. AL9 (St Albans and surrounding area) u. AL10 (St Albans and surrounding area) v. TN1 – TN22 (Tunbridge Wells and surrounding area) w. TN22 – TN40 (Tunbridge Wells and surrounding area) x. KT (Esher - Kingston upon Thames postcodes are the most relevant) y. M1 – M99 (All Manchester postcodes)

2. I also request the same for financial orders – ie the number of financial orders applied for between January 2016 and December 2016 from the same list of postcodes as above in 1 a - x.

However, I will submit a separate request for financial orders if appropriate – ie if there's a chance of 1 & 2 being too much to ask for all at once – in which case I would be grateful if you could let me know.

**FOIA Request 180207013**

1. The number of individuals (petitioners) who submitted divorce petitions between 01 January 2016 and 31 December 2016, in each of the following postcode areas: a. LS – all Leeds postcodes b. HG – all Harrogate postcodes c. Postcodes beginning YO7 d. Postcodes beginning YO51 e. Postcodes beginning YO61 f. Postcodes beginning LS29 g. Postcodes beginning BD20 h. Postcodes beginning BD23 i. Postcodes beginning LS22 j. Postcodes beginning LS23 k. Postcodes beginning LS24 l. Postcodes beginning YO23 m. Postcodes beginning YO26 n. Postcodes beginning LS14 o. Postcodes beginning LS15 p. Postcodes beginning LS25 q. Postcodes beginning HU r. Postcodes beginning YO25 s. Postcodes beginning YO43 t. Postcodes beginning WA13, WA14 and WA15 u. Postcodes beginning M31, M33, M23 and v. Postcodes beginning M22 w. Postcodes beginning SK9 x. Postcodes beginning SK10 y. Postcodes beginning SK8 z. Postcodes beginning SK7

2. I also request the same for financial orders applied for – ie the number of financial orders applied for between 01 January 2016 and 31 December 2016 from the same list of postcodes as above in 1.a. through to 1.z.

However please kindly advise (via [john.anderson@stowefamilylaw.co.uk](mailto:john.anderson@stowefamilylaw.co.uk)) if there's any risk of 1 & 2 being too much to request, all at once – If that were to be the case, I would submit a separate request for part 2 (financial orders).

Your requests have been handled under the FOIA. Under FOIA requests can be aggregated if they cover a similar theme or topic. In this instance, because all of the requests are from yourself and all cover a similar theme or topic, they have been aggregated.

Regarding the above, MoJ have received another request from you on 24 January 2018 in which you asked for the following information:

**Just to be clear we are looking to have this data broken down by area, as location specific as possible (ie postcodes preferable to towns). For instance it would be more useful to know the number of divorce petitions and financial orders for each of HG1, HG2, HG3, HG4 and HG 5, as opposed to just the combined total for Harrogate.**

This has been allocated another **FOIA request number, 180124032**, which has also been aggregated into this response.

Request 180202002 asked for information covering the whole of England and Wales and a further email received from you on 27 February 2017 confirmed that you require all four questions to be for the most recent 12 months data that MoJ is able to provide.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds some of the information that you have requested and I have provided it in the attached tabulation for the period 1 October 2016 - 30 September 2017.

If a request is made for information and the total figure amounts to five people or fewer, the MoJ must consider whether this could lead to the identification of individuals and whether disclosure of this information would be in breach of our statutory obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA). We believe that the release of some of this information would risk identification of the individuals concerned. For this reason, MoJ has chosen not to provide an exact figure where the true number falls between one and five. However, it should not be assumed that the actual figure represented falls at any particular point within this scale; 'five or fewer' is used as a replacement value from which it would be difficult to isolate or extract any individual data.

Notes regarding the attached data.

- The data are taken from the County Court case management system which is a live data base and as such is liable to change over time.
- Figures have been compiled using the latest data available.
- The data has not been checked against specific published statistics or against court files held locally.
- Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the details are subject to inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale case management system and is the best data that is available
- Attached are the postcodes for England & Wales. They are split into divorce Petitions and Ancillary/Financial Relief applications. It is possible that the same case would appear against both sets of data.
- Values between 1-5 are shown as “~”, as denoted above.

Outside of FOIA, and on a discretionary basis, I can tell you that MoJ do publish county level data that are based on postcodes at:

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/moj.analysis#!/vizhome/FamilyCourtstatisticstool2017Q3/Frontpage> (then select Fig 11b).

## **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.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

Data Access and Compliance Unit, 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.**