

XXXX  
XXXX

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

April 2018

Dear XXXX

### **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 180417003**

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

- 1. The total number of individuals (petitioners) who submitted divorce petitions during the period 01 April 2016 through to 31 March 2017 across the UK, broken down by postcode. The first part of the postcode is sufficient (eg AB1, AB33, LS2, LS22).**
- 2. The total number of ancillary relief applications (ie the number of financial orders applied for) between 01 April 2016 through to 31 March 2017, across the UK, broken down by postcode. Again the first part of the postcode is sufficient (eg AB1, AB33, LS2, LS22).**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds all of the information that you have requested. However, some of it is exempt from disclosure under section 40(2) of the FOIA, because it contains personal data.

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.

You have previously been provided with information under FOIA which, if considered alongside this data, would enable you to identify specific values between 1-5 for individual months of the year 01.04.16 - 31.03.17. This is known as the jigsaw effect ie. where different items of information might be joined together with the potential effect of identifying individual persons involved in the judicial system, in effect personal data.

For this reason, MoJ has chosen not to provide a total figures in this data set where that might happen and has denoted them as "~". 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.

On that basis I have provided the data you have requested.

Notes regarding the attached data.

- The data are taken from the Family 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
- 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)

Disclosure Team, 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.**