

XXXX  
XXXX

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

August 2018

Dear XXXX

### **Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests – 180706009**

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

**I would like the available data as outlined by you (see below) at both LCJB and individual court level for 2015, 2016 and 2017.**

**For calendar years 2015, 2016 and 2017, data on FTAs, subject to the following caveats:**

- **Data are held for each case where a warrant was issued, rather than for each defendant. Hence, where a defendant has more than one case for which a warrant was issued, each case will count separately.**
- **A single case may have multiple FTAs issued against it at various hearings throughout the life of the case.**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

It has been passed to me because I have responsibility for answering requests relating to data in Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS). HMCTS is an executive agency of the MoJ and is responsible for the administration of the magistrates' courts, the Crown Court, the County Court, the Family Court, the High Court, Court of Appeal and tribunals in England and Wales and non-devolved tribunals in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and I have provided it in the attached tabulations. The data provided is on a financial year basis and is all that we can provide given the imminent release of official statistics (see NOTES, below).

NOTES regarding the attached data.

- Data are taken from a live management information system and are based on raw data extracted in February 2018 which can change over time.
- In March 2018, HMCTS considered publishing the data but additional validation was necessary to ensure it was publishable quality. HMCTS / MoJ intend that the validated data will be published in a Criminal Justice Stats quarterly (CJSQ) in late August 2018.
- Data that will be published as part of the CJSQ is not finalised yet, may differ from the data provided in this FOIA and is exempt from FOIA disclosure under section 22 of the FOIA (which relates to information planned for future publication).
- The data supplied is a count of Failure to Attend Warrants rather than cases or defendants, as the Magistrates' Courts Libra system is case centric rather than person centric.

- Data provided by court is as recorded on the administrative database that captures activity within magistrates courts. Figures show the courts and sites where FTAs have been issued over the period.
- In most instances, LCJBs match to Police Force Areas (PFA). In some instances, most notably in London, there will not be a direct match with PFA.
- Data are management information and are not subject to the same level of checks as official statistics
- The data provided is the most recent available and for that reason might differ slightly from any previously published information.
- Data has not been cross referenced with case files.

## **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.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.**