

XXXX  
XXXX

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

March 2019

Dear XXXX

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 190225006**

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

**1) How many people were committed to prison for non-council tax payment in the following financial years? – a) 2012 - 13 b) 2013 - 14 c) 2014 - 15 d) 2015 - 16 e) 2016 - 17 f) 2017 -18**

**2) How many people were given suspended sentences for non-council tax payment in the following financial years? – a) 2012 - 13 b) 2013 - 14 c) 2014 - 15 d) 2015 - 16 e) 2016 - 17 f) 2017 -18**

For guidance, I would like an up-to-date version of the data given in response to this parliamentary question – <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-09-02/44494>

**3) How many liability orders were granted to local authorities by magistrates in England and Wales in the following years? a) 2012 - 13 b) 2013 - 14 c) 2014 - 15 d) 2015 - 16 e) 2016 - 17 f) 2017 -18**

**Please only answer points 1 and 2 of the request, if point 3 brings me over the limit for the amount of time and money my request would take up.**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

Regarding Questions one and two, I can confirm the MoJ holds the information you have requested and I have provided it below.

Question one:

| <b>Non-criminal prisoner admissions for non-payment of Council tax in the following financial years (1 April – 31 March)</b> |                |                |                |                |                |                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                                                                                              | <b>2012-13</b> | <b>2013-14</b> | <b>2014-15</b> | <b>2015-16</b> | <b>2016-17</b> | <b>2017-18</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                 | 56             | 49             | 43             | 56             | 75             | 26             |
|                                                                                                                              |                |                |                |                |                |                |

Question two:

| <b>Cases resulting in a suspended committal order for non-council tax payment in the following financial years (1 April - 31 March)</b> |                |                |                |                |                |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                                                                                                         | <b>2012-13</b> | <b>2013-14</b> | <b>2014-15</b> | <b>2015-16</b> | <b>2016-17</b> | <b>2017-18</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                                                                                                                            | 1120           | 1212           | 1182           | 1089           | 1018           | 657            |

Notes regarding all of the above data.

- Question one only shows the number of people actually admitted to prison.
- Regarding Question two, the number of suspended committal orders is based on a count of the number of unpaid Council Tax cases rather than the number of defendants. The same defendant may be included on more than one occasion in the period requested. The data is based on the case completion date.
- Data is taken from live management information systems and can change over time.
- Data is management information and is 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.
- As with any large scale recording system the data are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

In order to answer Question three, we would have to contact all Magistrates' Courts, locate the relevant listings (where still held) retrieve and extract the information requested. That would then have to be collated. We believe that the cost of doing that would exceed the appropriate limit. Consequently, I have not proceeded with Question three, in accordance with your request.

### **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**