

XXXX
XXXX

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

March 2019

Dear XXXX

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 190307011

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

In each of the individual years: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

- 1) How many cases were dealt with by courts across England and Wales, where the defendant was charged with breaching the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.**
- 2) For 2018 only, what was the outcome of cases dealt with by courts across England and Wales, where the defendant was charged with breaching the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.**
- 3) For 2018 only, please provide a breakdown of the number of cases dealt with by courts in England and Wales, where the defendant was charged with breaching the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, by geographical court location. I.e. Birmingham Magistrates Court, Leeds Magistrates Court, etc.**

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 below:

Regarding Question one:

Cases dealt with by courts across England and Wales, where the defendant was charged with breaching the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.					
Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of Cases	57	54	70	112	121

Regarding Question two:

Of the 121 cases shown above for 2018, 97 offences resulted in conviction and 25 were not convicted (see note (e) below).

Regarding Question three, a breakdown of Question one by Court location is:

Court	Cases dealt with
Basildon Magistrates Court	1
Birmingham Magistrates Court	2
Bristol Magistrates Court	1
Burnley Magistrates Court	22
Chelmsford Magistrates Court	1
Chesterfield Magistrates Court	1
Coventry Magistrates Court	2
Doncaster Justice Centre North	28
Dudley Magistrates Court	1
Liverpool Knowsley & St Helens Magistrates Court	1
Llandudno Magistrates Court	1
Mansfield Magistrates Court	1
Newcastle Magistrates Court	3
Newcastle under Lyme Magistrates Court	9
South Tyneside Magistrates Court	11
Swansea Magistrates Court	32
Willesden Magistrates Court	1
Wolverhampton Magistrates Court	3
TOTAL	121

Notes regarding all of the above data.

- a) Data are taken from a live management information system and can change over time.
- b) Data are management information and are not subject to the same level of checks as official statistics.
- c) The data provided is the most recent available and for that reason might differ slightly from any previously published information.
- d) The data supplied for Question one shows the number of Criminal Cases containing one or more offences under Section 3 (Occupier of land fail to notify Local Authority of rats/mice living on/resorting to in substantial numbers) and Section 5 (Fail to take required steps to destroy rats/mice on land after service of a Local Authority notice) of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.
- e) As a case can have more than one offence and as such more than one outcome, the data supplied for Question two shows the number of Convictions and Non-Convictions for offences under Section 3 and Section 5 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.
- f) The data supplied for Question three shows a breakdown of the Magistrates' Courts who dealt with the Cases containing one or more offences under Section 3 and Section 5 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.
- g) The data provided has been extracted specifically to answer this question and 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