



Disclosure Team
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

XXXX
XXXX

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

June 2019

Dear XXXX

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 190604013

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

The total number of cases listed to be heard at XXXX Magistrates Court on each day between February 1 to February 28 2019.

I do not require any personal details about the cases; only the total number that were listed when the court sat. I do not require any details on youth or family court hearings.

FOIA requests to MoJ can be aggregated if they cover a similar theme or topic.

I have therefore interpreted your request as asking for:

The total number of cases listed to be heard at every individual Magistrates' Court on each day between February 1 to February 28 2019.

I do not require any personal details about the cases; only the total number that were listed when the court sat. I do not require any details on youth or family court hearings.

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 some of it in the attached tabulation.

Your question has been interpreted as the number of cases heard at each individual court. Cases that were listed and adjourned on the day have been included. Family and Youth hearings have been omitted and for your information we have separated out Enforcement hearings. The remaining column includes all other Criminal and Civil cases heard.

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 General Data Protection Regulation and/or the Data Protection Act 2018. 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.

Other notes relating to the attached data.

- Data are taken from a live management information system and can change over time.
- Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that the data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when data are used.
- 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.
- The data supplied shows a count of Criminal and Civil Cases Heard at the individual Magistrates' Courts, along with a count of the number of Fine Enforcement Cases also heard, rather than a count of defendants. Therefore, where a defendant has one or more separate cases heard on the same day at the same Court, each case will be counted.
- 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

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