

XXXX
XXXX

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

September 2019

Dear XXXX

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 190812031

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

How many magistrates nationwide sat for more than 35 (full) days in the most recent year for which figures were available? Of those how many sat for over 50 days?

Your request has been handled under 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 have therefore interpreted "nationwide" as relating to England and Wales. I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and have provided it below.

I should explain that the HMCTS Magistrates Rota considers a morning or afternoon session as a single sitting. Since you have asked for "full days sat" I have interpreted that as being the equivalent full days sat ie by dividing the number of sessions by two.

On that basis I can tell you that for the period 31 March 2019 – 1 April 2019, in England and Wales:

- The number of Magistrates who sat over 70 sittings (equivalent to 35 days) was 2,045
 - Of these, the number of Magistrates who sat over 100 sittings (equivalent to 50 days) was 585

Notes regarding the above data

- The sittings recorded might not have been on the same day.
- The existing HMCTS Magistrates' rota system does not currently hold management information on single whole days numbers sat by Magistrates.

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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