



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

Mr Ian Johnson
request-563198-0bdad793@whatdotheyknow.com

data.access@justice.gov.uk

12 April 2019

Dear Mr Johnson

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 190319018

Thank you for your request dated 19 March 2019 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Please disclose each formal complaint made by prisoners at the following prisons between January 1 2019 and March 18 2019.

- * **HMP Low Newton**
- * **HMP Frankland**
- * **Holme House**
- * **Kirklevington Grange**
- * **Durham**
- * **Northumberland**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm the MoJ holds all of the information you have requested. However, to provide as the request currently stands would exceed the cost limit set out in the FOIA.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA means public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We believe that the cost of obtaining copies of a very large number of complaints into a useable format for assessment would exceed the appropriate limit. Consequently, we are not obliged to comply with your request.

Although we cannot answer your request at the moment, we may be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider, for example, reducing the number of prisons and or the time period involved in the request. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a refined request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

For guidance on how to structure successful requests please refer to the ICO website on the following link: http://ico.org.uk/for_the_public/official_information

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/3244/pdfs/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

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, 10.14, 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

David Barnes
HMPPS Briefing and Correspondence Team