

Mrs Agnes McMullan request-513738-c2d75da9@whatdotheyknow.com request-513743-a1842c28@whatdotheyknow.com

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

data.access@justice.gov.uk

19 September 2018

Dear Mrs McMullan

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request - 180829011

Thank you for your request dated 29 August 2018 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Dear Her Majesty's Courts and the Tribunals Service, I make this request in order to confirm whether a hearing was held at Liverpool Crown court between the 10th June 2016 and the 16th June 2016 either in camera or not in open court this hearing may or may not have affected the sentencing of certain defendants in the Case of Mr David McMullan and others. which took place sometime later.

if such hearing did take place it would have been before one of the senior judges at this court I believe the sentencing judge in the substantive case of David McMullan and others was HHJ Conrad therefore he may have been the judge in the closed hearing

Dear Her Majesty's Courts and the Tribunals Service, I write to amend request made 29/08/2018 I made a request regarding a hearing in camera or not in open court at Liverpool crown court I mistakenly identified the dates as 10th to 16th June 2016 when the relevant dates were 6th to 10th June 2016 the rest of the request was correct.

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that there is no record of any in chambers or private hearing that took place at Liverpool Crown Court between 6th – 10th June 2016 relating to the case of David McMullan and Others.

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty is to only provide recorded information held.

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

Knowledge Information Liaison Officer North West Regional Support Unit