

mark leech
request-663579-80c5fdb3@whatdotheyknow.com

Our reference: FOI 2020/05

8 June 2020

Dear Mr Leech,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – FOI 2020/05

Thank you for your email, received on 8 May 2020, in which you asked for the following information:

In cases that have appeared before the Parole Board in April 2020 and where a decision has been made to either

a. grant release on parole, or

b. recommend a transfer to open conditions

Please provide a summary of these decisions pursuant to the Parole Board Rules 2019

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm the Parole Board holds the information you have requested. However, to provide it 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 public authorities (not central government) is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

The only way we could answer your request would be to manually check approximately 303 cases and draft summaries for those that have not already had summaries requested and supplied under the procedures. This would equate to 303 x one hour plus two hours to check which cases were subject to a release or open decision. Based on £25 per hour, that would cost £7,625, well above the £450 limit.

If you amend your request, for example requesting a smaller time frame, we may be able to answer it within the cost limit. However, it may be exempt under another exemption.

You can find out more about requesting a summary of a parole decision here:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/decision-summaries>



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The information requested is also exempt under Section 32(1) of the FOIA as it forms part of the Parole Board record and disclosure of this information is exempt under Section 27 (6) of The Parole Board rules 2019. Further details of this can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/820983/The_Parole_Board_Rules_2019.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 Gary Hopper, Head of Corporate Services, at gary.hopper@paroleboard.gov.uk within two months of the date of this response.

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

The Parole Board for England and Wales