



Disclosure Team  
Ministry of Justice  
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Michael Bradley  
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25 February 2021

Dear Mr Bradley

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 210202008**

Thank you for your request dated 2 February 2021 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**I would like to request information as to all the courts in England & Wales, that have been permanently closed over the past 5 years I am only concerned with individual buildings, please provide the address of each broken down by county, type of court, address and postcode!**

**I would also like to know which buildings have been disposed of?**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested, and I provide it as attached at Annex A.

The information in Annex A shows courts that have closed since 1 January 2016, along with the requested headings. HMCTS categorises its courts by region, not by counties, we have therefore included the column of 'region'. 'Date of Closure' is when the court ceased providing a public service.

Recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is our top priority. We have adjusted court rooms to hold Covid-secure trials, moved to virtual hearings where possible and opened additional court rooms as part of a package of measures to increase available capacity.

As part of our Court recovery plans in response to the pandemic, we are utilising former court buildings for hearings where the property was not at an advanced stage of disposal, and where this is operationally viable.

HMCTS is investing record amounts, with £153m to improve court and tribunal buildings – the biggest single investment in court estate maintenance for more than 20 years.

## **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](mailto:data.access@justice.gov.uk)

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice

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

HMCTS Property Directorate