

19 June 2019

Dear Mark Leech,

Reference: FOI 247 Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your email, which we received on 21 May 2019. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked us:

The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman is subject to the Freedom of Information Act and final responses are required to be sent within 28 days.

You are required to keep a record of all FOI requests received, the dates of receipt, the reference numbers allocated to them and the date a final response was provided in respect of each

Can you please therefore provide me with:

1. A list of all FOI requests received by the Ombudsman, showing a. the dates they were submitted, b. the reference number allocated to them, and c. the date that they were each given a final response.

2. A list of all extant FOI requests, beyond 28 days from your receipt of them, that have not been given a full response within 28 days showing a. the date the request was received, b. the reference number allocated to it, and c. the reason why no response has yet been sent in accordance with the law?

You also sent the following amendment to the request:

Can you please add to this request, in terms of question 1 and question 2, the following that was omitted.

Please provide in respect of each FOI Request

“Brief details of each FOI Request”

Our response:

We are able to provide part of the information that you requested. Please see the attached CSV file for all FOI requests made between 2012 and 20 May 2019.

We track each new Freedom of Information request on an 'FOI log'. This log includes information such as reference number, date received and date sent. We have searched our records and determined that we have incomplete records for some of the information requested. We do not have records of Freedom of Information requests made prior to 2012.

As requested, the attached file contains the following information:

- The reference number allocated to them ('Reference number')
- The dates they were submitted ('Date received')
- The date that they were given a final response ('Date sent')
- Brief details of each FOI request ('Summary of request')

'All extant FOI requests'

You also requested '*A list of all extant FOI requests, beyond 28 days from your receipt of them, that have not been given a full response within 28 days*'.

We have searched our FOI log and have not been able to identify any 'extant' Freedom of Information requests that have not been responded to within 28 days.

You have the right to appeal against our response if you think it is incorrect. Details can be found in the 'How to Appeal' section attached at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Molina
Research Officer

The Ombudsman carries out independent investigations into deaths and complaints in custody. The PPO's responsibilities are set out in detail in our terms of reference¹.

The PPO has two main duties:

- To investigate complaints made by prisoners, young people in detention (young offender institutions and secure training centres), offenders under probation supervision and immigration detainees.
- To investigate deaths of prisoners, young people in detention (including residents in secure children's homes), approved premises' residents and immigration detainees due to any cause, including any apparent suicides and natural causes.

The purpose of these investigations is to understand what happened, to correct injustices and to identify learning for the organisations whose actions we oversee so that we can make a significant contribution to safer, fairer custody and offender supervision.

¹ www.ppo.gov.uk/about/vision-and-values/terms-of-reference/

How to Appeal

Internal Review

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to an internal review. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will make a decision as to whether we answered your request correctly.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to the Prison & Probation Ombudsman's Office **within two months of the date of this letter**, at the following address:

Prisons & Probation Ombudsman's Office
Third Floor, 10 South Colonnade
London E14 4PU
E-mail: mail@ppo.gov.uk

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct us to respond to your request differently, if he considers that we have handled it incorrectly.

You can contact the ICO at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Internet address: www.ico.gov.uk