

Millie Whittaker
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10th July 2020

Dear Ms Whittaker,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200612017

Thank you for your request dated 12th June 2020 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

- 1) How many participants are actively taking part in the Healthy Identity Intervention Programme (HIIP)?**
- 2) What is the average length of time an offender takes to complete the programme?**
- 3) Please could I receive an updated number of offenders who have completed the programme since the last update (2013) and additionally have this broken down by number per year**
- 4) How is completion measured?**
- 5) Of those who successfully completed the programme (per request 3), how many didn't?**
- 6) Of those who failed to complete, what is the protocol? e.g. do they get reenrolled or listed on a new programme, if so, which?**
- 7) How many, and which, prisons are actively hosting the HIIP?**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and it has been provided it below.

1) How many participants are actively taking part in the Healthy Identity Intervention Programme (HIIP)?

As of the time of your request, we have 22 HIIP cases recorded as open.

2) What is the average length of time an offender takes to complete the programme?

The average length of time taken to complete HIIP is 3 to 4 months. The total length of delivery can vary greatly depending on the risks and needs of service users and their level of engagement and identification with an extremist group, cause or ideology.

3) Please could I receive an updated number of offenders who have completed the programme since the last update (2013) and additionally have this broken down by number per year[?]

Outside of the FOIA, and on a discretionary basis, we use interventions – psychological, ideological and theological – to help encourage and facilitate desistance and disengagement, support reintegration into society, and reduce the risk of further offending. HII is one of a number offending behaviour programmes, and interventions available depending on the risks and needs of the service users that require addressing.

More widely, governors and frontline staff are being given the training, skills, and authority needed to challenge inappropriate views and take action against them. Over 29,000 prison staff have received enhanced extremism awareness training which shows them how to recognise aspects of an offender's behaviour which might indicate terrorist sympathies.

Unaccredited HII Completions: Custody & Community

Year completed	Count of Completions
2013 – 14	17
2014 – 15	22
2015 – 16	21
2016 – 17	24
2017 – 18	25
2018 – 19	42
2019 – 2020	29
2020 – Present	1
Grand Total	180

A number of individuals are in the process of completing.

The HII was accredited in 2018. Figures for the number of accredited custody completions of HII from 2019 onwards are collected and released by the Prison and Probation Analytical Services (PPAS) on an annual basis. The first publication of accredited HII figures for 2019 - 2020 will be included within the HMPPS Digest. However, it is exempt from disclosure under section 22(1) of the FOIA, because it is intended for future publication.

Under section 22(1) of the FOIA, we are not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication. This is a qualified exemption which means that the decision to disclose the information is subject to the public interest test. When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure

- Publication would encourage and promote transparency and accountability, demonstrating that HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) uses public funds in an appropriate way.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information

- It is in the public interest to ensure that data used in the compilation of official statistics comply with the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics* and that resulting outputs are produced to the highest quality. Statistics of high quality are produced to

sound methods, with all users having easy and equal access that is fair and open, and are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest. Premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process.

- It is in the public interest to adhere to the existing publication process for official statistics, which includes time for the data to be collated and properly verified before placed in the public domain. This ensures that accurate information is available to all members of the public at the same time. Premature publication could result in the release of unverified data and data that has not been through appropriate quality and assurance checks.

On balance, we have determined that it is in the public interest to withhold this information from disclosure until it is published officially. The figures are due to be published at the end of July and you will be able to access these at this address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hmpps-annual-digest-2019-to-2020>

4) How is completion measured?

HII cases are officially recorded as “complete” once the individual has successfully completed all necessary sessions in the programme and the post-programme report completed by the programme facilitator has been disclosed.

5) Of those who successfully completed the programme (per request 3), how many didn't?

Based on our records, there have been 20 individuals recorded as not completing HII once they have begun participation in the programme.

Please note that regardless of recommendation status, this figure does **not** include those individuals who have not started the programme, nor does it include those individuals whose failure to complete the programme was due to reasons outside of their control.

6) Of those who failed to complete, what is the protocol? e.g. do they get reenrolled or listed on a new programme, if so, which?

Reasons for non-completion can vary depending on the specifics of the case in question. In such an event, the case will be handled according to sentence management procedures wherein the rehabilitative needs of the individual are considered and the most appropriate rehabilitative pathway recommended.

7) How many, and which, prisons are actively hosting the HIIP?

While many rehabilitation programmes across the estate are commissioned for delivery at particular sites, the Healthy Identity Intervention is available to be delivered at any site where there is a need for the programme.

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

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

Interventions Services Business Enquiries Team
HM Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS): Interventions Services