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**Ms Shirley Debono**

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30 June 2020

Dear Ms Debono

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200620002**

Thank you for your requests dated 20 June 2020 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**Request 1:**

**How many convicted terrorist were freed half way through their sentence between 2016/17**

**Request 2:**

**How many convicted terrorist were released half way through their sentence between 2018/19**

**Request 3:**

**How many convicted terrorist were released half way through their sentence between 2015/16**

**Request 4:**

**How many convicted perpetrators of sexual violence were released half way through their sentence between 2015/16**

**Request 5:**

**How many convicted perpetrators of sexual violence were released halfway through their sentence between 2016/17**

**Request 6:**

**How many perpetrators of sexual violence were released half way through their sentence between 2018/19**

**Request 7:**

**How many convicted perpetrators of sexual violence were released half way through their sentence between 2019/20**

**Request 8:**

**How many murderers were released from prison between 2015/16**

**Request 9:**

**How many murderers were released from prison between 2016/17**

**Request 10:**

**How many murderers were released from prison between 2017/18**

Your requests are being handled under the FOIA.

Where more than one request is received for the same or similar information, section 5(2) of the FOI and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 allows public authorities to aggregate requests and respond to them together I have therefore aggregated your requests dated 20 June 2020 as noted above.

I have considered your request for information but I am unable to answer it without further clarification. Section 1(3) of the FOIA does not oblige us to answer requests where we require further clarification to identify and locate the information requested.

So that I provide you with the right information, please can you explain in relation to the term: '*sexual violence*', which is referred to in requests 4, 5, 6, and 7 above, which specific offences you intend to be covered by this description. Note there is no officially recognised offence, or group of offences, categorised by the MoJ as '*sexual violence*'.

Whilst one of the official categories of offence group classifications is the '*Sexual Offences*' group, some of the sexual offences included in that grouping include offences which do not of themselves involve an element of violence. For example, the offences of '*Possess a paedophile manual*' and '*Engage in sexual communication with a child*' are both classified under the '*Sexual Offences*' group, but do not necessarily involve violence.

To assist you in framing the terms of your clarified request, you may wish to refer to the MoJ *Offence group classifications document*, which can be viewed via the following link:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/886486/offence\\_group\\_classification2019.xlsx](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/886486/offence_group_classification2019.xlsx)

On receipt of this information I will continue to process your request.

Yours sincerely

**Statistics Unit, Analytical Services,  
Ministry of Justice**