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23 April 2020

Dear Emmy

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – FOI 200410006**

Thank you for your request dated 10 April 2020 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Dear Ministry of Justice,

The MOJ Press release of 09/04/2020 published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prison-estate-expanded-to-protect-nhs-from-coronavirus-risk>

states that the Ministry of Justice is: "Working with the judiciary to expedite sentencing hearings for those on remand to reduce the numbers being held in custody".

Could you please provide me with information on what methods, procedures and practices is the Ministry of Justice engaging with the judiciary to expedite sentencing for those on remand and what are the guidelines it is using to do so.

Yours faithfully,

Emmy Butlin

Your request is being handled under the FOIA.

The MoJ is required under section 10(1) of the FOIA to provide you with a response within 20 working days. Therefore, we aim to provide you a response to your request by **12 May 2020**. However, in view of the current public health situation, and its possible effect on resources and priorities, we may not be able to reply to you by this date; if this will be the case we will write to you nearer the time with an update.

Yours sincerely,

Business Support Team  
Strategy and Change Directorate