

Stella Richardson
request-488529-0d513ccb@whatdotheyknow.com

21 June 2018

Dear Ms Richardson

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 180601006

Thank you for your request dated 1 June 2018 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Please could you tell me the number of adults who were convicted in an English court for criminal offences that were committed when the offenders were below the age of 18 for each year in the 5 year period to 2017

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm the MoJ holds all of the information you have requested. However, to provide as the request currently stands would exceed the cost limit set out in the FOIA.

Section 12(1) of the FOIA means public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Centrally held information cannot identify whether the offence was committed under the age of 18 and the same convicted after the age of 18.

We believe that the cost of courts in England reviewing individual case files to establish the age when the offence was committed and the age when the offender convicted would exceed the appropriate limit, as this specific information is not held centrally by MoJ. Consequently, we are not obliged to comply with your request.

Although we cannot answer your request at the moment, we may be able to answer a refined request within the cost limit. You may wish to consider, for example, reducing the scope of the request for a single year or a single court. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee at this stage that a refined request will fall within the FOIA cost limit, or that other exemptions will not apply.

For guidance on how to structure successful requests please refer to the ICO website on the following link: http://ico.org.uk/for_the_public/official_information

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/3244/pdfs/uksi_20043244_en.pdf

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.gsi.gov.uk

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice, 10.38, 102 Petty France, London, SW1H 9AJ

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

Kunjal Amin
Justice Statistics