

Eileen Tierney
via request-669923-ee08fa72@whatdotheyknow.com

30 June 2020

Dear Ms Tierney,

Freedom of Information Act (FoIA) request – 200611001

Thank you for your freedom of information request received on 11 June, in which you made the following requests of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

Please supply the number of Prisoner Deaths in HMP Nottingham between 1st January 2017 and 31st May 2020. Please breakdown the figures as follows: 1) Year 2) Month 3) Cause of death eg suicide, misadventure, natural causes, accidental etc. 4) On remand 5) Serving sentence. I am happy to receive the information by email and in a WORD document or EXCEL spreadsheet. Please confirm that these are the same figures that would be provided by the Prison Service to The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

Your request has been handled under the FoIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds all of the information that you have requested. The data that you requested from 1st January 2017 and 31st March 2020 is provided in the attached table. However, the data from 1st April to 31st May 2020 is exempt from disclosure under section 22(1) of the FOIA, because it is intended for future publication.

When assessing whether or not it would be in the public interest to disclose it to you, we took into account the following factors.

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure

- Early disclosure would improve transparency in the operations of Government, and of the justice system in particular.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information

- 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. This ensures that accurate information is available to all members of the public at the same time. Premature publication could undermine the principle of making the information available to all at the same time through the official publication process.
- It is also in the public interest to ensure that data used in the compilation of official statistics complies 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 these aims and would increase the risk that incorrect or inaccurate information was released.

We have reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under section 22 of the FoIA.

Please be advised the information is due to be published on 30th July and can be accessed via the following link <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/safety-in-custody-quarterly-update-to-december-2019>.

Please note that we report deaths in custody to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman not The Independent Office for Police Conduct.

We must do whatever we can do reduce deaths in custody, and have accepted and acted upon the vast majority of recommendations from Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) investigations.

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, 10.25, 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,

Emily Hanson