

request-625461-b4ccc3cf@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: FOI 2019/38

7 January 2020

Dear Ms Knight,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – FOI 2019/38

Thank you for your email which we received on 6 December 2019 in which you asked the following information from the Parole Board:

Please give figures as to how many IPP sentenced people have applied to have their licences terminated as per S.31A of the 1997 Crime Sentences Act. This includes applications for termination made by/through probation and also those made directly to the board under the Parole Board Rules 2019.

If possible please break the figures down, by the year of application and the gender of the person.

Your request is being handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the Parole Board holds some of the information that you have requested.

However, to provide the information 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 is £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.6 working days determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

To respond to your request would require us to manually check 3,200 cases from our case management system, we estimate this will take approximately five minutes to check per case. The following table breaks down the estimated cost to answer your request.

Total IPP cases	3,200
Appx 5 minutes to check each record	640
Total cost to check (£25 per hour)	£16,000



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As we believe that the cost to provide you with the information would exceed the appropriate limit, 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. 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.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to Gary Hopper, Head of Corporate Services, at gary.hopper@paroleboard.gov.uk within two months of the date of this response.

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,

The Parole Board for England and Wales