



**By email**

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Our ref: 06/06/hf/514

9 July 2020

Dear Dorothy Howbrook,

**Re: Freedom of Information request - Prisoners who contracted STDs while incarcerated in the last 5 years**

Thank you for your email dated 6 June 2020. In accordance with Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), I can confirm that Public Health England (PHE) does hold the information you have specified.

***Your Request***

***I would like to know how many prisoners in the British penal system contracted sexually transmitted infections and diseases (inc. HIV) while in prison between January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2020. I would like these broken down by gender, type of infection and also by year please.***

***Response***

PHE can confirm that it holds this information. Please find attached the information you have requested in regard to 2015-2018 years. Please be aware of the following caveats in regards to this data:

- Prisons in England are not required to report directly to GUMCAD - therefore we are unable to determine whether numbers are representative of the full prison population
- Data are affected by small cell sizes – therefore we cannot provide a gender breakdown
- Data represent the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed
- Data represent sexually transmitted infections (STIs) diagnosed in the prison population - STIs may have been acquired outside of prison

Data for January 2019 - December 2019 is expected to be published in September 2020. Under section 22 of the Freedom of Information Act, public authorities are not obliged to provide information that is intended for future publication. In line with the terms of this exemption in the Freedom of Information Act, we have considered:

- maintaining access to data in a co-ordinated manner to all people at the same time;
- ensuring the quality and integrity of data.

In this case, we have concluded that the public interest favours withholding the information.

Our view that Section 22 applies to your request is based on the judgement that the public interest will be better served by general publication, when complete. Disclosure now, to a single individual, of incomplete data and therefore potentially misleading information would not be in the public interest.

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please refer your query to in writing in the first instance. If you remain dissatisfied and would like to request an internal review, then please contact us at the address above or by emailing [foi@phe.gov.uk](mailto:foi@phe.gov.uk).

Please note that you have the right to an independent review by the Information Commissioner's Office if a complaint cannot be resolved through the PHE complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner's Office can be contacted by writing to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,  
FOI Team