



Ministry
of Justice

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04 February 2025

Dear Eloise,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 250101004

Thank you for your request dated 1 January 2025 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ):

Dear HM Prison & Probation Service, please provide the following information: In 2023 & 2024, how many intakes were there for PQIP places (i.e. intakes of new trainee probation officers)? For each intake, how many applications were there? For each intake, how many trainee probation officer roles were available? For each intake, were all positions filled? For 2024 intakes, how many applicants had level 5 qualifications, and how many level 3 qualifications? For 2024 intakes, how many of the successful applicants had level 5, and how many level 3, qualifications?

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds some the information that you have requested, and I have provided this below.

- 1) In 2023, how many intakes were there for PQIP places (i.e. intakes of new Trainee Probation Officers)?

There were two PQiP intakes in 2023, and this spanned two separate financial years. The intakes took place in March 2023 (Intake 13) and September 2023 (Intake 14).

- 2) For each intake, how many applications were there?

PQiP Intake 13 = 5622 Total Submitted Applications (March 2023)
PQiP Intake 14 = 1735 Total Submitted Applications (September 2023)

- 3) For each intake, how many Trainee Probation Officer roles were available?

PQiP Intake 13 = 891 available vacancies
PQiP Intake 14 = 328 available vacancies

4) For each intake, were all positions filled?

All vacancies were filled.

We can confirm that the MOJ holds all of the information that you have requested for 2024. However, it is exempt from disclosure under section 22(1) of the FOIA, because it is intended for future publication.

This is a qualified exemption which means that the decision to disclose the information is subject to the public interest test. When assessing whether or not it was in the public interest to disclose the information to you, we took into account the following factors:

Public interest considerations favouring disclosure

- Disclosing the information promotes government transparency.
- Provides the public with an understanding of the recruitment effort of the MoJ that supports the work towards reducing reoffending.

Public interest considerations favouring withholding the information

- In May of each year, the MoJ publishes data on the number of Trainee Probation Officers who were recruited in the previous financial year. We have made a public commitment to onboard 1,000 trainees across 2024/25 and the May publication will confirm whether this public commitment has been achieved. Prior to May 2025, we are unable to provide any information which could indicate whether we will meet this commitment as this would not be a fair and transparent way of delivering this insight to the public.
- If we were to provide details of applicant numbers, roles available and positions filled for 2024, this would partially pre-empt whether we will reach this public commitment. As we are providing data for 2023, the comparison between these figures and the 2024 figures would provide a particular risk of disclosure.
- Whether or not the MoJ reaches this commitment is a sensitive and high-profile topic and this is a message that needs to be delivered in a fair manner, via statistical release.

On balance, we consider the public interest favours withholding the information at this time.

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 40 working days of the date of this response.

data.access@justice.gov.uk

Disclosure & Library Team, Ministry of Justice, Postal Point 5.22, 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

MoJ People and Capability Correspondence