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8 October 2018

Dear Deb Williams

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 180903043, linked with 180802019**

Thank you for your request received on 03 September 2018 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

- 1. A list of all district and deputy district judges that have insolvency jurisdiction and sit at the county court hearing centres on the South-Eastern Circuit/South East Region.**
- 2. County court hearing centres specified by the Chancellor as "specialist" for the purpose of receiving insolvency/ bankruptcy transfers. Brighton, Croydon, Medway, Preston, Romford.**
- 3. The Business and Property Courts of England and Wales with insolvency/bankruptcy specialist jurisdiction (please list the specialist work that cannot be heard by regional centres) including all five main regional centres. Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds and Manchester.**
- 4. District Registry of the High Court South East Region (South-Eastern Circuit)**
- 5. "ICC" Insolvency and Companies Court Judges 'High court insolvency (both personal and corporate please list both) who also hear appeals from the county court in the south-east region.**
- 6. "Etc" simply means any other information you may hold that relates to my request.**

Your request is being handled under the FOIA. I response to your request below; which I have numbered for ease of reply.

**Item 1**

**A list of all district and deputy district judges that have insolvency jurisdiction and sit at the county court hearing centres on the South-Eastern Circuit/South East Region.**

The MoJ does not hold the information in the scope of this part of your request. This is because there is no legal or business requirement for MoJ to do so. The information is not held because District Judges and Deputy District Judges do not require an authorisation (or 'specialist ticket') to give them jurisdiction to hear insolvency proceedings.

County Courts have jurisdiction to hear insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency (Commencement of Proceedings) and Insolvency Rules 1986 (Amendment) Rules 2014 (S.I. 2017, No 817). The County Courts with insolvency jurisdiction can be found by looking at the table in Schedule 1 of the Insolvency (Commencement of Proceedings) and Insolvency Rules 1986 (Amendment) Rules 2014 (S.I. 2017, No 817). For details, see the following link:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2014/817/schedule/1/made>

The FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. The duty is to only provide the recorded information held.

## **Item 2**

**County court hearing centres specified by the Chancellor as "specialist" for the purpose of receiving insolvency/ bankruptcy transfers. Brighton, Croydon, Medway, Preston, Romford.**

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you. The information can be accessed via the following links

This list is set pursuant to Insolvency Practice Direction:

[https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil/rules/insolvency\\_pd](https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil/rules/insolvency_pd)

The list can be found on the judiciary website:

<https://www.judiciary.uk/insolvency-proceedings-practice-direction-specified-specialist-hearing-centres/>

The courts addresses can be obtained using service that's available from:

<https://courtribunalfinder.service.gov.uk/search/>

## **Item 3**

**The Business and Property Courts of England and Wales with insolvency/bankruptcy specialist jurisdiction (please list the specialist work that cannot be heard by regional centres) including all five main regional centres. Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds and Manchester.**

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you. The information can be accessed via the following links

Information relating to the work and Courts of the Business and Property Courts can be found at:

<https://www.judiciary.uk/you-and-the-judiciary/going-to-court/high-court/courts-of-the-chancery-division/>

The Business and Property Courts Practice Direction, Practice Direction 57A – Business and Property Courts can be found at

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil/rules/practice-direction-business-and-property-courts>

Practice Direction: Insolvency Proceedings:

[https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil/rules/insolvency\\_pd](https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil/rules/insolvency_pd)

#### **Item 4**

##### **District Registry of the High Court South East Region (South-Eastern Circuit)**

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you by the following links

The courts addresses can be obtained using service that's available from:

<https://courtribunalfinder.service.gov.uk/search/>

The names of judiciary that sit on the South-Eastern Circuit can be obtained from:

<https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/who-are-the-judiciary/list-of-members-of-the-judiciary/>

#### **Item 5**

##### **"ICC" Insolvency and Companies Court Judges 'High court insolvency (both personal and corporate please list both) who also hear appeals from the county court in the south-east region.**

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and I have provided it below:

##### **Insolvency and Companies Court Judges;**

Mr Chief Insolvency and Companies Court Judge Briggs (Chief Registrar),

Insolvency and Companies Court Judge Jones,

Insolvency and Companies Court Judge Barber.

##### **Chancery High Court Judges who sit in the Business and Property Courts:**

The Chancellor of the High Court

Justice Arnold,

Justice Barling,

Justice Birss,

Justice Henry Carr,

Justice Fancourt appointment 1 October 2018

Justice Falk

Justice Hildyard,

Justice Mann,

Justice Morgan,

Justice Norris,

Justice Nugee,

Justice Rose,

Justice Roth,

Justice Marcus Smith,

Justice Snowden,

Justice Zacaroli.

**Item 6**

**"Etc" simply means any other information you may hold that relates to my request.**

We have provided some explanatory information for our responses to some of the items listed above, and hope this helps you.

**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](mailto:data.access@justice.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

Knowledge and Information Liaison Officer

London and South East Regional Support Unit | HM Courts & Tribunals Service