



Nicholas

26 November 2012

Via e-mail to: request-139700-d708e786@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: FOI 2012/21

Dear Nicholas

Thank you for your e-mail of 24 November 2012 in which you asked for the following information from the UK Supreme Court (UKSC).

Could you please confirm to me how a suspended sentence without an operational time period is legal?

How can three magistrates in a civil court give a suspended sentence?

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I should explain that the FOIA can only be used to obtain recorded information held by a public body. It cannot be used to obtain advice, opinion or conjecture. Your questions are a request for legal advice or opinion, and as such do not form a valid request under the terms of the FOIA.

Outside the terms of the Act, I should explain that the UKSC does not provide legal advice, either in specific cases or in response to general queries. However, if you want to receive legal advice you may wish to consult a solicitor or the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The CAB will deal with requests online, or you can find the details of your local office, at their website at <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

As part of our obligations under the FOIA, the UK Supreme Court has an independent review process. If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you may write to request an internal review. The internal review will be carried out by someone who did not make the original decision, and they will re-assess how the Department handled the original request.

If you wish to request an internal review, please write or send an email to the following address:

William Arnold
Director of Corporate Services
UK Supreme Court
Parliament Square
London
SW1P 3BD
e-mail: william.arnold@supremecourt.gsi.gov.uk

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office under Section 50 of the FOIA. You can contact the Information Commissioner's Office at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Internet: https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact_us.aspx

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Brigland', with a stylized flourish at the end.

PAUL BRIGLAND
Departmental Records Officer & Head of ICT