



The CPS incorporates RCPO

2 December 2009

Our ref: Disclosure 73/2009

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 - DISCLOSURE

Statistics on the pre-charge, plea and trial for the possession and supply of Controlled Substance in Bradford over the past three years

In your request you ask for the following statistics around the possession and supply of 'illegal drugs within the Bradford District' over the last three years.

- 1. The number of offences referred to the CPS by the Police.**
- 2. The number of offences where a decision was made not to prosecute by reason of insufficient evidence.**
- 3. The number of offences where a decision was made not to prosecute by reason of public interest.**
- 4. The number of offences where a decision to prosecute was made.**
- 5. The number of cases resulting in a hearing in a magistrates court.**
- 6. The number of cases where charges were withdrawn or changes after the offender was charged.**
- 7. The number of guilty pleas entered.**
- 8. The number of not guilty pleas entered.**
- 9. The number of convictions.**
- 10. The number of acquittals.**
- 11. The number of cases failing by reason other than acquittal or withdrawal of the charge.**

Items 1 to 3 of your request enquire after pre-charge activity in respect of offences relating to the possession and supply of controlled drugs. Whilst the CPS does record information about pre-charge decisions, this is not captured at offence level. As a result, there is no recorded information held in the format you ask for in relation to pre-charge activity.

Items 4 to 11 of your request, regarding information about defendants charged with possession and supply of controlled drugs. Whilst data is captured at broad offence level, it is not possible to distinguish between possession and supply. In order to meet your request the CPS would be required to recall and individually review in excess of 1660 case files. This would take significantly more than the 3 ½ days work limit specified under the Appropriate Limit and Fees of Freedom of Information and Data Protection Regulations 2004. This limit, which is set at £600, represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3 ½ working days determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information. Consequently, the department is not obliged to meet this part of your request in accordance with section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The table highlights what information is recorded by the CPS and assist with your request. Please take into account the following when viewing the figures.

CPS West Yorkshire - Airedale/Bradford North & Bradford South Cases
Principle Offence Category - Drug Offences

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Prosecutions	512	544	604
Completed hearings in Magistrates Courts	352	351	345
Prosecutions Dropped	25	27	32
Guilty Plea	465	495	541
Not Guilty Plea	16	13	17
Convictions	476	505	554
Acquittal	5	3	4
Other unsuccessful outcomes	6	9	14

- I have interpreted 'Bradford District' to be the region covered by Bradford District Metropolitan Council and as such provided data from the CPS Units covering Airedale/Bradford North and Bradford South.
- As previously mentioned it is not possible to distinguish between offences of supply and possession of controlled drugs. The information provided is in respect of all controlled drug offences charged.
- The data is for those cases in which 'drugs offences' are the principal offence. There maybe some instances not encapsulated in the data whereby the main charge/principal offence is not a drugs matter; but there may have been a lesser drug related offence also preferred.
- With regard to point 6 of your request there is no data captured concerning amendments to charges. I am able to provide the number of cases 'dropped' before evidence was heard.
- The final row of the spreadsheet marked other unsuccessful outcome relates to point 11 of your request. These figures comprise administrative finalisations (instances where a defendant cannot be traced by police; has died; or been found unfit to plead); and cases discharged at committal.

For more detailed information on pre-charge activity and specific offence based data I would invite you to contact West Yorkshire Police.

Information Management Unit

Tel: 0207 796 8000

Fax: 0207 796 8439

E-mail: FOIUnit@cps.gsi.gov.uk