



The CPS incorporates RCPO

Disclosure Ref: 53/2012

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST

National Statistics for Pre-Charge Decisions made between 1st May 2011 to 30th April 2012

1) I would like a breakdown of pre-charge decisions made by the CPS in the past 12 months, by offence type (e.g. GBH, ABH, Fraud etc)

The link titled 'Disclosure 53 Attachment 1' contains a table of data for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Pre-Charge Decisions (PCDs) for the last 12 months. We have provided data for the most recent 12 month period for which we have data from 1st May 2011 to 30th April 2012. Please also note the caveats included at the bottom of the table which provide further explanations on the data. Our case management system does not enable us to break down this data further into different offence types as you have specifically requested. A break down into 'offence type' is only available for prosecution cases, not PCDs.

It would only be possible for us to identify PCDs by offence type by looking at each individual decision. This would involve examination of more than 360,000 case files. The exercise of reviewing such a high number of case files engages the Section 12 cost exemption and consequently the Department is not obliged to comply with this part of your request as it would exceed the appropriate limit, in accordance with section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The appropriate time and cost limit to spend working on a request is specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit And Fees) Regulations 2004 and for central government is set at £600. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days in determining whether the Department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

I also refer you to the link provided below which relates to the Code for Crown Prosecutors and contains a clear and explanatory note on the test applied by the CPS which is split into an evidential stage and a public interest stage.

<http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/code2010english.pdf>

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