



# Ministry of Justice

Mike Buchanan  
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Our Reference: FOI/92762

Re-offending Statistics,  
Justice Statistics Analytical  
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15 September 2014

## Freedom of Information Request

Dear Mr Buchanan,

Thank you for your email of 15 August 2014, in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

***“Could you please provide me with the latest statistics on the rate of recidivism of men following release from prison, i.e. what proportion of prisoners are back in prison within a year, two years... up to 10 years if the stats are available?”***

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

I can confirm that the department holds the information you have requested, and I am pleased to provide this to you.

The table below presents the long term proven re-offending rates for male adult offenders in England and Wales released from prison in 2003 and returned to prison between one and ten years after their release.

Follow-up period	Number of released prisoners <sup>1</sup>	Number and percentage of released prisoners returned to prison	
		Number	Percentage
1 year	58,093	18,685	32.2
2 years	58,093	24,508	42.2
3 years	58,093	27,550	47.4
4 years	58,093	29,465	50.7
5 years	58,093	30,872	53.1
6 years	58,093	31,942	55.0
7 years	58,093	32,679	56.3
8 years	58,093	33,334	57.4
9 years	58,093	33,859	58.3
10 years	58,093	34,274	59.0

1. This does not represent all offenders released from prison - offenders who are released from prison are matched to the Police National Computer so that we can

assess their subsequent proven re-offending, and those who cannot be matched are excluded from the offender count.

The statistics presented in the table above are a further breakdown of the custody figure published in Table 18a of the "*Proven Re-offending Statistics Quarterly Bulletin, January to December 2011*", which can be found in the Excel document entitled "Proven Re-offending Tables, January to December 2011" at the following link:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/proven-re-offending-quarterly-january-to-december-2011](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/proven-re-offending-quarterly-january-to-december-2011)

An explanation of the proven re-offending measure and definitions of the main terms used in the bulletin can be found at the same link in the "*Definitions and Measurement*" document.

Please note that 2003 is currently the latest year for which this analysis is possible. This is because insufficient time has elapsed to measure re-offending over long term follow-up periods for more recent offender cohorts.

You can find out more about information held for the purposes of the Act by reading some guidance points we consider when processing a request for information, attached at the end of this letter.

You can also find more information by reading the full text of the Act, available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents> and further guidance <http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/foi-step-by-step.htm>

You have the right to appeal our decision if you think it is incorrect. Details can be found in the 'How to Appeal' section attached at the end of this letter.

### **Disclosure Log**

You can also view information that the Ministry of Justice has disclosed in response to previous Freedom of Information requests. Responses are anonymised and published on our on-line disclosure log which can be found on the MoJ website: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/information-access-rights/foi-requests/latest-moj-disclosure-log>

The published information is categorised by subject area and in alphabetical order.

Yours sincerely

**Nick Mavron**

## How to Appeal

### Internal Review

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to an internal review. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will make a decision as to whether we answered your request correctly.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to the Data Access and Compliance Unit within two months of the date of this letter, at the following address:

Data Access and Compliance Unit (10.34),  
Information & Communications Directorate,  
Ministry of Justice,  
102 Petty France,  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

E-mail: [data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk)

### Information Commissioner's Office

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct us to respond to your request differently, if he considers that we have handled it incorrectly.

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 address: [https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact\\_us.aspx](https://www.ico.gov.uk/Global/contact_us.aspx)