

Ms Lucy Series
By email: SeriesL@cardiff.ac.uk

data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk

19 June 2017

Dear Ms Series,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 112074

Thank you for your request dated 17 May 2017 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

'I am trying to find data on the average waiting time from application until a final determination is made by the First Tier Tribunal (Mental Health). If possible I would like this data broken down by whether the patient is detained under s2 MHA, s3 MHA or is a restricted patient.'

I would be grateful for any information you can share with me that you hold on this matter.'

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information you have requested but we are unable to provide it in the format required. I have provided the information below and an explanation of how it has been compiled

Table 1 Time for a Disposal April 16 to March 17

		<i>Time from Receipt to Disposal in Weeks</i>						
	Total	0	1	2	3	4 or more	Median Age	
Section 2	10,617	2,604 24.5%	5,629 53.0%	1,931 18.2%	252 2.4%	201 1.9%	1 week	
Restricted	3,449	0-3 275 8.0%	4 to 9 530 15.4%	10 to 15 2055 59.6%	16 to 18 177 5.1%	19 or more 412 11.9%	Median Age 10 to 15 Weeks	
Non-Restricted ^{b)}	21,065	0-3 4,648 22.1%	4 to 7 10,094 47.9%	8 to 9 3,687 17.5%	10 to 12 1,361 6.5%	13 or more 1,275 6.1%	Median Age 4 to 7 Weeks	

Unfortunately we are unable to supply average waiting times as we do not have access to the base data and the management information reports do not support average waiting times from receipt to disposals, the above data being the best available.

It is not possible to solely obtain data for Section 3 cases as they are included within the Non-Restricted category; however although non restricted category includes 20 other Section types, Section 3 make up the majority.

The figures show the number of cases and the percentage within weekly bandwidths of time from Receipt to Disposal for Section 2, Restricted and Non-Restricted Cases.

Data is taken from a live management information system and can change over time.

The data provided has been extracted specifically to answer this question and has not been cross referenced with case files.

Although care is taken when processing and analysing the data, the details are subject to inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale case management system and is the best data that is available; it is considered reliable and used monthly by operations to manage its business.

The data relates to a subset of Mental Health Tribunal official statistics but extracted from the case management system on a different date and after the quarterly reconciliation process; therefore they can differ from the published statistics by 3%-4%.

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.gsi.gov.uk

Data Access and Compliance Unit, 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,

Debra Whittle
First Tier Tribunal (Mental Health)