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|  MoJ_BLK_SML |  |  |
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|  | **Our Reference:** 585-16 FOI 108157 |   | November 2016 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

You asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**I am currently conducting psychological research on perpetrators of animal abuse. I am interested in the Ministry of Justice’s statistics on offences against the Animal Welfare Act 2006.**

**I would like to find out the number of individuals who were charged for animal welfare offences from 1 January 2010 to the most recent statistics held. I would like the statistics to be broken down by:**

**1.      Year**

**2.      Age of the accused**

**3.      Gender of the accused**

**4.      Ethnicity of the accused**

**5.      Outcome (i.e., conviction, sentence type [community, custodial, fine, etc.], and sentence/tariff length)**

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

I can confirm that the Department does not hold the information you requested. To establish whether the requested information was held I conducted a thorough search, and made enquiries within the Criminal Justice System Statistics Team within Justice Statistics Analytical Services. When assessing whether or not information was held adequate and reasonable searches for the requested information were made of:

* **Electronic records on the Ministry of Justice Court Proceedings Database.**

If the information was held by MoJ it would be have to be held by the above mentioned business area. It may help if I clarify that information is not held by MoJ because there is no legal or business requirement for MoJ to hold the information being requested.

The MoJ Court Proceedings Database holds information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Responsibility for statistics on charging data, and outcomes based on that data falls within the remit of the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), and hence MoJ sentencing data would not be aligned with the data available from the CPS. You can contact or make a request to the Crown Prosecution Service by using the following link:

FOIUnit@cps.gsi.gov.uk