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| Ministry of Justice | June 2017 |

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request –** 112434

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

1. **“Could we also have the 2016 figures please?**
2. **Would it be possible to organise an interview with a minister to explain the policy and the plans for prosecuting parents in the future?”**

This is an updated request linked to your previous FOI request: 111469, in which you asked:

* **How many people in England have been taken to court for a child missing school, in 2014, 2015 and 2016.**
* **How many parents have been prosecuted as a result? Please could I have the figures year on year since 2014.**
* **Would it be possible to have the figures region by region?**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds some of the information that you have requested.

Question One

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates’ courts and found guilty at all courts for a child missing school by region in England and Wales in 2016 is shown in the attached table.

Question Two

Please note your second request regarding interview with a minister does not fall under the FOIA and will be dealt with separately.

Unfortunately, question two does not fall under the FOI. It may be helpful if I explain that the FOIA (2000) gives individuals and organisations the right of access to all types of recorded information held, at the time the request is received, by public authorities such as the MoJ. Section 84 of FOIA states that in order for a request for information to be handled as a FOI request, it must be for recorded information. For example, an FOI request would be for a copy of a policy, rather than an explanation as to why we have that policy in place. On occasion, the MoJ receives requests that do not ask for recorded information, but ask more general questions about, for example, a policy, opinion or a decision.