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| Ministry of Justice | December 2017 |

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request –** 171123002

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

**This understanding of point three is correct - The number of offenders given a custodial sentence in each year for 'attempting to meet a child following grooming' who have previously received a conviction for the same offence.**

Which was a clarification of the below request

**Could you provide me with the following information, for the calendar years 2014, 2015 and 2016.**

**1. The number of convictions for the charge of 'attempting to meet a child following grooming'.**

**2. The number of people convicted of the above charge who have received a custodial sentence. To be clear, time behind bars rather than a suspended sentence.**

**3. The number of offenders who have been convicted of the charge listed in point 1 more than once who have received time behind bars. If you are unable to answer point 3 please could you still send over the data for points 1 and 2.**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested. I have provided the answers to questions 1 and 2 in the attached annex.

To answer question 3, please be informed that in 2014 there was 1 offender in England and Wales who received an immediate custodial sentence after being convicted for attempting to meet a child following grooming who had a previous conviction for meeting a child following grooming. In 2015 there were no such offenders and in 2016 there were 2.

This data is taken from the Ministry of Justice extract of the Police National Computer, the system used by the police in England and Wales to record information on all recordable offences.

The sentences given by the court are decided by the independent judiciary and consider several factors including sentencing guidelines, plea and criminal history. A previous conviction for the offence is only one of the many things considered when making the decision about the sentence given to the offender.