

20 March 2024

REFERENCE: FOI\24\24

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 29th February 2024 as detailed below.

'Can I please request:

- 1: An ethnic breakdown of people who were convicted of crimes in 2022 and 2023*
- 2: An ethnic breakdown of people of people in Northern Ireland's prisons in 2023 broken down by each individual prison'*

In relation to the first question you have posed, the Department does not hold information on the ethnicity of a defendant as part of its convictions datasets, or as part of its court records. Therefore we are not able to provide the information requested at part (1) of your query.

In relation to the second question, figures have been provided in the following tables providing a breakdown of those in each Northern Ireland prison establishment at midnight on 31st December 2023 by the racial group options in the Prison Records Information System (PRISM).

The Northern Ireland Prison Population as at midnight on 31st December 2023 by prison establishment and racial group.

Table 1: Maghaberry

Racial Group	Prisoners
White	1,083
Irish Traveller / Traveller	32
Mixed Ethnic Group	23
Black ¹	15
Chinese	14
Other ²	22
Total	1,189

¹ "Black" includes any individuals recorded as "Black African", "Black Caribbean" and "Black Other"

² "Other" includes any individuals recorded as "Other Ethnic Group", "Bangladeshi", "Indian" and "Pakistani"

Table 2: Magilligan

Racial Group	Prisoners
White	474
Irish Traveller / Traveller	9
Other ¹	9
Total	492

¹ "Other" includes any individuals who may be recorded as "Mixed Ethnic Group", "Other Ethnic Group", "Bangladeshi", "Indian", "Pakistani", "Black African", "Black Caribbean", "Black Other" and "Chinese"

Table 3: Hydebank Wood Male and Female Prisons

Racial Group	Males	Females
White	40	74
Other ¹	7	5
Total	47	79

¹ "Other" includes any individuals who may be recorded as "Mixed Ethnic Group", "Other Ethnic Group", "Bangladeshi", "Indian", "Pakistani", "Black African", "Black Caribbean", "Black Other", "Chinese" and "Irish Traveller/Traveller"

Source: PRISM

Notes:

1. Data is management information.
2. Data is at midnight on 31st December 2023.
3. Racial Group data is self-disclosed and not verified by prison staff.
4. Due to disclosure controls there are merged racial group categories in each table, these detailed within the individual table notes.

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. If you request an internal review please do so in writing stating the reasons to the address above.

If following an internal review you were to remain dissatisfied you may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner and ask him to investigate whether the DoJ has complied with the terms of the FOIA. You can write to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

The Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out.

Further details on the role of the Information Commissioner and the handling of appeals can be found at: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Manager