

15 May 2025

REFERENCE: FOI\25\45

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 21st April 2025, as detailed below.

‘I would like to request the following:

In each court where cases of domestic violence are heard, the average time from first listing to the cases being heard, the number of cases heard by each court in the last five years and the number of those cases that have resulted in prosecution.’

Information on the number of domestic abuse related cases dealt with at courts in the years 2019 – 2023, the most recent 5 years for which information is available, has been listed in the following table. Information on the average time (mean and median) has also been provided. While both figures are forms of average, the mean may be skewed by cases that take longer to complete, while the median measures the point at which 50% of cases have been completed.

Prosecutions, convictions and average time taken from court listing for domestic abuse related cases dealt with at courts, 2019 – 2023

Crown Court			Av. Time from listing to hearing	
Year	Prosecutions	Convictions	Mean (days)	Median (days)
2019	150	126	116	71
2020	87	72	124	79
2021	138	114	200	118
2022	169	129	205	132
2023	230	198	165	104

Magistrates' courts			Av. Time from listing to hearing	
Year	Prosecutions	Convictions	Mean (days)	Median (days)
2019	1,847	1,162	87	70
2020	1,361	892	116	89
2021	2,348	1,471	150	112
2022	2,783	1,607	117	87
2023	3,587	2,044	106	82

Note:

1. Figures for convictions relate to initial disposals at court. Appeals are not included.
2. Figures relate to cases where there was a prosecution or conviction for at least one domestic abuse related offence.
3. Figures include cases with an offence motivated by domestic abuse, as assessed by PPS (for offences that occurred before the introduction of the Domestic Abuse and Civil Proceedings Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 and, for offences that occurred after the legislation was introduced, those assessed as falling under it, including the new domestic abuse offence.
4. The first listing date is based on the first listing in Magistrates for Magistrate Court cases and first listing in the Crown for cases in the Crown Court.
5. Hearing date – is based on the Trial or Contest date, where it was recorded, or, on the first finding date on all charges if there was no trial or contest date.

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 the Commissioner 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

If you wish to discuss this please contact the Freedom of Information Team using the contact details provided at the top of the first page. Please remember to quote your reference in any correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Manager