

Freedom of Information Team

18th October 2023

REFERENCE: FOI\23\68

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your request for information dated 9th October 2023 as detailed below.

'I am writing in regards to sentencing. I wish to apply for disclosure of information on the average sentences handed out for crimes in your jurisdiction.

Please state the average sentence issues for the following offences in your jurisdiction in both 2021 and 2022 (ie figures for both years):

1. *Murder*
2. *Manslaughter*
3. *Rape*
4. *Attempted rape*
5. *Attempted murder*
6. *Kidnapping*
7. *Robbery*

For context I am seeking information similar to this story for comparison purposes on sentencing between Northern Ireland and England/Wales.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-46424942> '

In relation to the question you have posed, information has been provided in the table below. However, care should be taken in interpreting the figures provided in the table as,



in some cases, the number of convictions upon which the average was calculated, was small.

Average custodial sentences (months) imposed following conviction at court for offences specified, 2021 and 2022

Offence	2021	2022
Murder	243 months	194 months
Manslaughter	80 months	99 months
Rape	131 months	103 months
Attempted rape	143 months	*
Attempted murder	n.a.	*
Kidnapping	*	72 months
Robbery	50 months	57 months

Note:

1. Figures relate to initial disposals at court. Appeals are not included.
2. Where part of a custodial sentence was to be spent on licence, this period has also been included in the calculation.
3. Figures in relation to murder relate to the minimum tariffs imposed. Murder convictions draw a life sentence.
4. Figures relate to cases where there was a custodial sentence handed down following conviction for at least one of the offences specified.
5. Figures for offences listed, other than those listed as 'Attempted', relate to substantive versions of the offences only.
6. Figures have been rounded to whole months where applicable.
7. Figures relate to convictions brought as a result of a prosecution by PPS on behalf of PSNI, Harbour police, Airport Constabulary, NCA or PBNI.
8. The form of average used is the mean.

n.a. means there were no convictions at court for that offence in the year specified.

* means figures have not been provided under rules of disclosure, as there were fewer than three relevant convictions.

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

