

19 May 2023

Reference: FOI 471 Freedom of Information request

Thank you for your letter, dated 11 April 2023, which we received on 20 April 2023. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked us:

To provide the following statistical data tables from March 2022 to March 2023:

- Complaints (categorisation)
- Fatal incidents investigations data (data is based on when the PPO were notified of the death)
- Self-inflicted deaths
- Homicide
- Natural causes
- Other non-natural
 - Awaiting classification
 - Covid 19 related fatal incident investigation

Our response:

We have searched our records and hold some of the requested information on the above question. However, some information cannot be disclosed as exemptions apply.

For the month of March 2022, the statistical data tables that you requested are enclosed with our response.

For the months of April 2022 to March 2023, we have decided not to disclose the information you requested. In accordance with section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter acts as a refusal notice.

The information you requested is being withheld under the exemption described below. In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing this information. The reasons why the public interest favours withholding information are also described below.

The exemption applied is section 22a 'Information intended for future publication'.

This applied because this information will be published in our Annual Report for 2022/23, which is scheduled to be laid before Parliament on 14 September 2023. It is important that this information is seen by Parliament before disclosure to the public.

You asked us:

To provide the most recent:

- General Stakeholder Survey
- Bereaved Families Survey
- Complaints Survey
- Post-Investigation Survey
- Complaints Recommendations
- Fatal Incidents Recommendations

Our response:

We have decided not to disclose the information you requested. In accordance with section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter acts as a refusal notice.

The information you requested is being withheld under the exemption described below. In applying this exemption, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosing this information. The reasons why the public interest favours withholding information are also described below.

The exemption applied is section 22a 'Information intended for future publication'.

This applied because this information will be published in our Annual Report for 2022/23, which is scheduled to be laid before Parliament on 14 September 2023. It is important that this information is seen by Parliament before disclosure to the public.

You asked us:

To provide HMPPS Complaints Data (prisoner complaints raised at the establishment in the period across the prison estate) from March 2022 to March 2023.

Our response:

Following a search of our records, the information you requested is not held by us. We suggest you contact HM Prison and Probation Service, as they may be able to provide this data, and their details are as follows:

Disclosure team
Postal Point 10.25, Floor 10
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

You have the right to appeal against our response if you think it is incorrect. Details can be found in the 'How to Appeal' section attached at the end of this letter.

The Prisons and Probation Ombudsman (PPO) carries out **independent investigations** into complaints and deaths in custody. The detailed role and responsibilities of the PPO are set out in our office's Terms of Reference. The PPO has three main duties:

- to **investigate complaints** made by prisoners, young people in detention (prisons and secure training centres), offenders under probation supervision and individuals detained under immigration powers (detained individuals)
- to **investigate deaths** of prisoners, young people in detention, approved premises' residents and detained individuals due to any cause, including any apparent suicides and natural causes
- to **investigate deaths** of **recently released prisoners** that occur within 14 days of release from prison (except homicide)

The purpose of these investigations is **to understand what happened, to correct injustices** and **to identify learning** for the organisations whose actions we oversee so that the PPO makes a significant contribution to safer, fairer custody and offender supervision.

We may use or share your data only to the necessary extent when conducting our independent investigations in the exercise of our official authority. We will share your data with third parties (e.g. the prison) in order to make sure the information is accurate; to prevent or detect failings; and to identify lessons learnt. We may sometimes need to share your data with third parties if required by law. We only keep your personal data for as long as it is needed, as set out in our data retention policy. If you need any further information about how your data is used, please contact us.

How to Appeal

Internal Review

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to an internal review. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone who was not responsible for the original case, and they will make a decision as to whether we answered your request correctly.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman's office **within two months of the date of this letter**, at the following address:

Prisons and Probation Ombudsman
Third Floor
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU
E-mail: Mail@ppo.gov.uk

Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

If you remain dissatisfied after an internal review decision, you have the right to apply to the Information Commissioner's Office. The Commissioner is an independent regulator who has the power to direct us to respond to your request differently, if he considers that we have handled it incorrectly.

You can contact the ICO at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Internet address: <https://ico.org.uk/>