



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

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Philip Davies MP  
Member of Parliament for Shipley  
House of Commons  
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25 February 2013

*Dear Philip*

**HANSARD 22 JANUARY 2013; COLUMN 229W ON SEXUAL OFFENCES**

In January this year you tabled the Parliamentary Questions below:

- To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many convicted sex offenders have had their sentences cut on appeal in each of the last five years. (138418)
- To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many convicted absconded sex offenders have had their sentences cut on appeal in their absence in each of the last five years. (138419)

Previously I informed you that I would write once these data were collated. I am now pleased to provide you with a response. A copy has been placed in the House Library.

The number of offenders having their sentence for sexual offences cut on appeal by the Crown Court (against decisions of magistrates' courts) in England Wales between 2007 and 2011 is given in Table 1.

**Table 1: Defendants receiving a reduction in their sentence for sexual offences after appealing in the Crown Court<sup>1</sup>, England and Wales, 2007-2011**

| Year | Number of defendants |
|------|----------------------|
| 2007 | 16                   |
| 2008 | 15                   |
| 2009 | 10                   |
| 2010 | 14                   |
| 2011 | 11                   |

**Source:**  
HM Courts and tribunals Service CREST system

**Notes:**  
1. Appeals heard in the Crown Court against decisions of magistrates' courts

The table was produced by comparing sentences before and after the appeal to determine whether it had been reduced by way of:

- A reduction in the severity of disposals
- A reduction in the length of sentence
- A reduction in the number of disposals
- A reduction in the monetary value to be paid

However, statistical data from the Court of Appeal are not able to answer the question in relation to appeals heard in the Court of Appeal against Crown Court decisions. The data only indicate whether an appeal against sentence had been allowed following an appeal, which could be a decrease or variation in conditions. In addition, only the principle offence is recorded against each case, meaning we are unable to identify appeals involving sexual offences if the principle offence was of another type.

It is also not possible from centrally held information to determine if an appellant appeared at the appeal hearing or if they are still at large.



HELEN GRANT