



Ministry
of Justice

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP

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Diana Johnson MP
House of Commons
London
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Our ref: PQ 212855

13 January 2015

Dear Diana

**REPLY TO PQ 212855, IN WHICH ANSWERS TO PQs 210323,
210324 AND 210325 WERE REQUESTED**

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions:

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, when he intends to answer Questions 210325, 210324 and 210323 due for answer on 17 October 2014; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. **(212855)**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) prosecutions and (b) convictions there have been under section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases was the victim a child. **(210323)**

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) prosecutions and (b) convictions there have been under sections 57 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases was the victim a child.

(210324)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) prosecutions and (b) convictions there have been under section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants, etc.) Act 2004 in each of the last five years; and in how many such cases was the victim a child. **(210325)**

I undertook to write to you with the information when this was available. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in providing the information you requested.

The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts of offences under Section 71 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, Section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004 and Section 57 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in England and Wales from 2009 to 2013 can be viewed in the table at **Annex A**.

You may find it helpful to know that centrally held data by the Ministry of Justice includes information on defendants proceeded against, found guilty and sentenced for criminal offences in England and Wales. Data on the age of the victim is not included is not held centrally, but it was considered possible that the information was contained in case-files held by the courts.

Unfortunately, after an extensive investigation involving liaison with the magistrates' courts and Crown Court centres, it has proved impossible to produce reliable figures for how many of these cases involved a child. This is partly because records from courts are not consistently retained for the time-period specified and partly because the age of the victim is not always recorded in the court-files where there is no operational reason to do so.

I hope you find this information helpful. I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.



RT HON MIKE PENNING MP

Annex A

Defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty of offences under selected legislation, England and Wales, 2009 to 2013 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾						
Legislation	Outcome	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Section 71 Coroners and Justice Act 2009 ⁽³⁾	Proceeded against	-	1	22	4	10
	Found guilty	-	-	1	1	9
Section 4 Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004	Proceeded against	14	6	11	13	12
	Found guilty	7	2	-	6	2
Section 57 and 59 Sexual Offences Act 2003	Proceeded against	20	8	6	15	19
	Found guilty	15	3	3	7	8
'-' = Nil						
(1) The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.						
(2) Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.						
(3) Offences in section came into force 6 April 2010						
Source: Justice Statistics Analytical Services - Ministry of Justice.						
Ref: PQ 210323 210324 210325						

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