



Bob Neill MP
Chair of the Justice Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: 180501

24 May 2018

Dear Bob,

FOLLOW-UP TO EVIDENCE ON THE TREATMENT OF YOUNG ADULTS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Further to my letter of 17 May 2018, I am writing to you to provide further information on the number and proportion of 18-25 year olds who receive a pre-sentence report.

The figures provided below on sentenced offenders are available in the routine Criminal Justice System statistics, using the "outcomes by offence" analysis tool, found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/criminal-justice-system-statistics-quarterly-december-2017>.

To make the numbers more meaningful, we have filtered out summary offences, selecting only indictable and triable either way offences. This should be a more accurate figure of the number of defendants eligible for a PSR. The published spreadsheets are readily manipulated to remove this filter, and we recognise that in applying it we will have unavoidably removed some cases that involve summary-imprisonable offences. We have also provided a breakdown to show the major disposals for this age group.

I need to draw your attention to some caveats in using this data. Sentencing figures and PSR figures come from separate datasets, drawn from different systems, and therefore they will have differences, for instance the point at which the information is captured and age coverage. The age ranges for the sentencing data is 18-24, rather than 18-25, as requested and as provided for the PSRs. Therefore, care should be taken when drawing conclusions that are informed by both sources.

Table 1: Outcomes for indictable and triable either way offenders – 18 – 24 year olds

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Prosecuted	95,492	85,359	73,154	63,088	55,927
Convicted	75,052	67,637	60,249	52,717	46,630
Sentenced	74,058	66,962	59,534	51,989	45,791
Absolute discharge	312	281	375	196	148
Conditional discharge	9,498	8,190	6,977	5,253	4,236
Fine	15,482	13,889	11,282	9,990	8,482
Community sentence	17,246	13,622	11,979	9,756	8,205
Suspended sentence	9,075	9,936	10,202	9,297	8,484
Immediate custody	19,342	18,105	16,710	15,629	14,449
Otherwise dealt with	2,315	2,408	1,609	1,584	1,502
Compensation	788	531	400	284	285

Table 2: PSRs prepared in 2017, by age group and type of report

	Fast Delivery PSR written	Fast Delivery PSR oral	Standard PSR	All PSRs
18-25 year olds	13,589	19,397	1,237	34,223
All ages	49,415	75,488	4,739	129,642
Proportion of 18-25 yr olds (%)	27	26	26	26

PSRs prepared in 2016, by age group and type of report

	Fast Delivery PSR written	Fast Delivery PSR oral	Standard PSR	All PSRs
18-25 year olds	17,891	20,630	2,607	41,128
All ages	62,977	75,723	9,596	148,296
Proportion of 18-25 yr olds (%)	28	27	27	28

It may be useful to add that, where young adults (18-21) are being sentenced to Detention in a Young Offender Institution (DYOI), the court should request a PSR to be prepared unless they consider it unnecessary (for instance if a recent PSR already exists or if custody is inevitable).

I hope this helps you with your continued interest in young adults and we are very happy to provide further information to assist your work in relation to this group, which we recognise frequently to have different and distinct needs.

BT



RORY STEWART OBE MP