



Ministry
of Justice

Lord (David) Wolfson of Tredegar, QC
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

Sir Bob Neill MP
Chair, Justice Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

MoJ ref: SUB88790

24 June 2021

Dear Sir Bob,

JUSTICE SELECT COMMITTEE ON COVID AND THE CRIMINAL LAW: LIMITATION PERIOD FOR PROSECUTIONS UNDER CORONAVIRUS REGULATIONS

Thank you for your follow-up letter of 8 June, regarding the limitation period for prosecutions under coronavirus regulations, and how they are working in practice. I apologise for the short delay in responding to you; I wanted to provide you and the Committee with as much information as possible.

Regarding your third question, the number of Covid-19 related offences dealt with via the Single Justice Procedure since 1 March 2020 is 7,234. It is important to note that this data is drawn from a live operating system, not normally intended for publication, and so it has not been independently validated. Please also note that not all cases in June of this year will have been captured.

With regards to your first two questions, the Ministry of Justice does not have departmental responsibility for the police. However, I asked my officials to contact the Home Office and National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) to answer your queries.

I can confirm that police forces must notify ACRO Criminal Records Office if they decide not to proceed, and ACRO will send a letter as such to the defendant.

Data on the number of fixed penalty notices (FPNs) that have not been paid within 28 days is not yet publicly available. I am told there is a plan to publish this information later in the year, and I will provide you with it at that point. Work is underway to link up this data with court data so that there is a better understanding of the end-to-end journey of a case.

Kind regards,

**LORD (DAVID) WOLFSON
OF TREDEGAR, QC**