



Ministry
of Justice

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Dame Meg Hillier MP

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By Email

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Dear Dame Hillier,

Individuals released under investigation for RASSO Crimes

At a recent Public Accounts Committee hearing in December on the subject of the backlog of cases in the criminal courts, Mr Holden asked for a written update to provide data on the number of people that are currently released under investigation for rape and serious sexual offences (RASSO) crimes. The MOJ Permanent Secretary, Antonia Romeo, has asked me to write to you to provide that update.

In December, the Home Office published experimental statistics on numbers of individuals released under investigation which concluded in the year 2020/21. This showed that individuals were released under investigation for 12,663 sexual offences being investigated over that period.

It is important to note some caveats on this data which is that it is provisional, incomplete and reflects returns from only just over half of police forces. The category of 'sexual offences' is also much broader than RASSO cases, and we are working with the Home Office to see if they can disaggregate this data. The Home Office is working with police forces to help improve data collection for this area going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Jerome Glass