



Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation
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12 December 2017

Dear Mr Humpherson

CPS conviction statistics for cases flagged as rape

Thank you for your letter about the CPS conviction statistics for cases flagged as rape in the 2016-17 CPS Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) report.

It may be useful for me to firstly explain the different format of this year's report. The intention was to provide easier public readability and accessibility through a short main report, whilst providing detailed data and caveats in a linked data report with annexes. The main report this year was therefore presented in a new shortened format, including infographics, to present data more briefly and simply. For the first time it was digitally linked to the data report and annexes, rather than having one longer report. The report included all the information to explain the data which had previously been published, but in a different format. In response to the issues you raised we have now revisited the content and format in relation to rape statistics to ensure clarity throughout.

Each year, in developing the CPS VAWG report, the CPS works in partnership with the MoJ to ensure accuracy and transparency of data on rape prosecutions, outlining the differences between the official national rape statistics from the MOJ and the case management rape data from the CPS. This year the joint section of the data was compiled together, as in previous years, but was moved to an annex of the report, simply for stylistic reasons. We recognise that this could appear misleading to anyone who did not read the linked annexes. We have therefore worked closely with the Chief Statistician at MoJ and revised the report to take on board the issues you raised.

We have revised the rape sections of the main report and the data report, to clearly explain how the CPS records prosecutions of defendants, following an initial allegation of rape. We have also outlined in the main and data report sections, the differences in the CPS and the MoJ data and their significance, as well as in the annex. To ensure there is no possible misinterpretation of the data we have removed the specific infographic related to rape prosecutions. In addition we have combined the sections of the report into one document, as in previous years, but with clear links to the data report and all annexes.

Thank you for raising the issues and I hope that the revisions ensure greater clarity around all the rape data. We have published the revised report on our website, noting that this is a revised edition, for full transparency and we are currently revising the Welsh version (<http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/equality/vaw/index.html#a02>).

If you have any further concerns please do let me know.

Yours sincerely



Alison Saunders
Director of Public Prosecutions

c.c. Steve Ellerd-Elliot, Chief Statistician, MoJ