



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

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Date 23 March 2026

EHTNICITY BREAKDOWN OF CRIMINAL CASES BACKLOG

Thank you for your request of 13 March 2026 for Freedom of Information Request held by the National Audit Office.

We have considered your request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Request Act 2000.

To summarise, you requested a breakdown of the ethnicity identity of 80,000 criminal cases backlog, and where possible to apply national identity.

Our policy is to respond to requests in a helpful and timely manner. However, on this occasion, we are unable to provide you with the information you have requested as this is not information that the NAO collects.

We do not hold data on ethnicity for the Crown Court backlog and we are not aware that MoJ has published any data on the Crown Court backlog by ethnicity.

In our 2024 report, [Reducing the backlog in the Crown Court](#), we highlighted the data gap in this area:

Para 21, page 13: ...**Since 2018, HMCTS has produced a Crown Court dashboard that provides real-time data, for example, on the number of case receipts and disposals, and trial duration, to both national and local teams to help inform their operations. However, data gaps remain, for example, demographic data about service users, including age, gender and ethnicity.**

However, MoJ does publish some data on ethnicity:

Data across the Criminal Justice System (CJS) are published on a biannual basis but not linked to Crown Court backlogs: [Ethnicity and the criminal justice system 2024 - GOV.UK](#). The most relevant table for courts is this one: [5 Defendants tables 2024.ods](#).

Data is also published by ethnicity for defendants in Crown Courts by remand status: [Remand status at Crown Court - GOV.UK Ethnicity facts and figures](#).

I hope this information is helpful. Our policy is to respond to requests made under the Freedom of Information Request Act 2000 as helpfully and promptly as possible, having regard to the principles set out in the Act. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you

have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

FOI and Correspondence Officer