

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/378(492102)

1. How many women were charged with a criminal offence in 2017?

East Lothian Council (ELC) does not hold this information*. ELC's Criminal Justice Social Work Team have, however, provided the following information which is based on the number of court reports requested on women which, in the last year, was 41.

2. How many of the women charged received a) Some form of community sentence? b) A custodial sentence?

- a. 20 women were given a CPO or DTTO
- b. 4 women were given a custodial sentence.

3. Of the women charged, how many were repeat offenders?

ELC does not routinely record information on repeat offences*.

4. What specific strategies or programmes are in place, if any, to try to divert women from incarceration?

We offer the full range of CPO conditions for women and prepare diversion reports. We offer a weekly holistic women's group which builds on strengths and addresses all factors seen to contribute to women's offending.

5. Do you have any women only centres?

One day per week we take over a property and it becomes women only.

6. Do you have any centre or hub that is mixed gender, where women can receive help or assistance?

No

*Under Section 17(1)(b) of the Act, I must formally advise you that ELC has been unable to comply with those parts of your request marked * as the information you require is not held.

Finally, it may help to explain that Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. It does not apply to views, opinions, intentions or questions which simply require a yes/no answer. In view of this, some of the questions asked are not technically valid for the purposes of this legislation as they are not requests for specific recorded information that ELC may or may not hold.

In order to assist you, however, ELC's Criminal Justice Social Work Team have addressed the questions posed to the best of their knowledge. For future reference, a link to the "Tips for Requesters" page of the Scottish Information Commissioner's website has been provided which you may find useful:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>