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Our ref SUB/1423/2015

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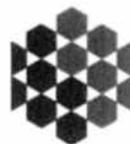
9 December 2015

Dear Christine,

**JUSTICE (NO.2) BILL: REQUEST FOR STATISTICS REGARDING  
CUSTODIAL SENTENCES HANDED DOWN FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY**

Officials from DOJ and DARD recently appeared before the Justice Committee to provide evidence regarding the proposal to increase the maximum penalties available for animal cruelty under the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 (the 2011 Act). The Committee requested information in relation to the number, and length, of custodial sentences handed down in respect of cases brought under the 2011 Act. The table below provides the information requested on the number of custodial sentences up until 2014, the latest full year for which statistics are available: -

<b>Year</b>	<b>Custodial sentence</b>
2012	3 months
(2 persons)	1 month
2013	5 months
(2 persons)	3 months
2014	4 months



(10 persons)	1 month
	10 months imprisonment + 10 months on license
	4 months
	7 months imprisonment + 7 months on license
	9 months
	3 months
	6 months imprisonment + 6 months on license
	2 months
	3 months

These figures relate to initial court disposals only. Results of cases brought to appeal are not included. Figures relate to persons convicted of any one of the offences in question, whether or not they were the primary offence at conviction.

I trust this information is helpful.

**TIM LOGAN**  
**DALO**