



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
The Legal Bureau

Summary of the Year 2023

Pardons Department



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Handling Pardon Applications Year 2023

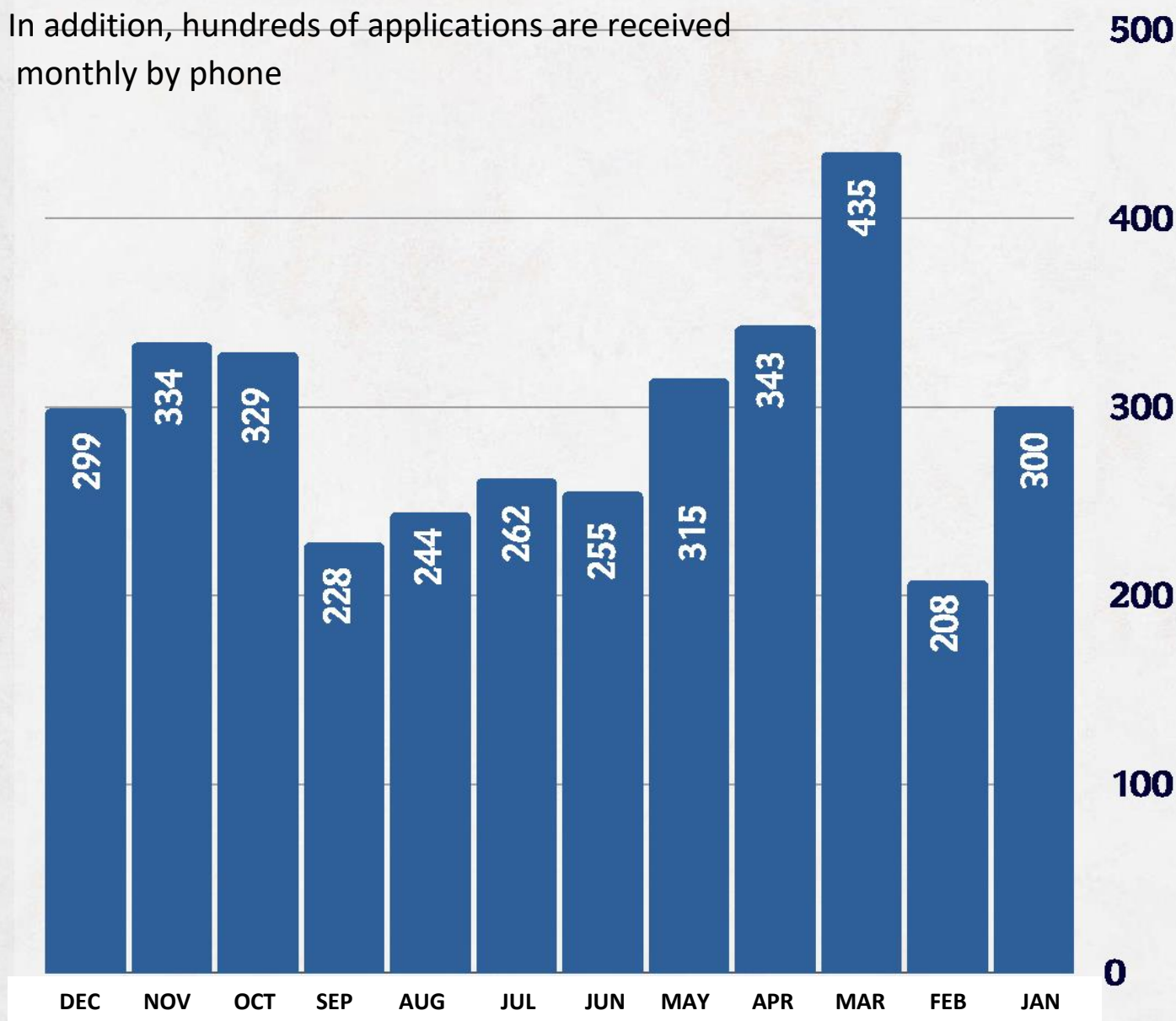


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Written Applications Received

Total 3,552 written applications

In addition, hundreds of applications are received
monthly by phone



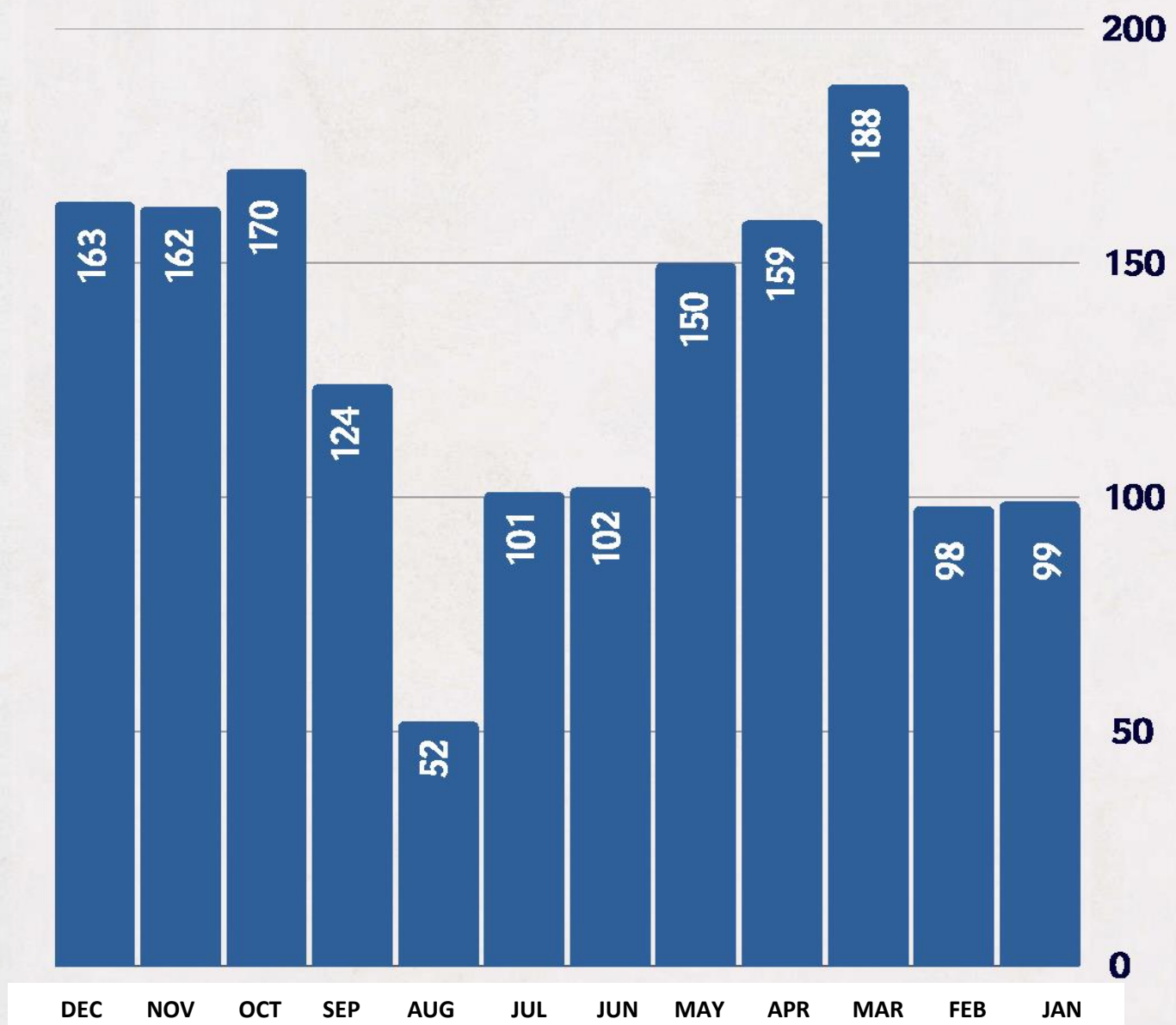
* This is the total of all applications including new requests; applications to clarify processing status; documents for existing applications and legal applications that are not under the President's authority.



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Pardon Requests Opened

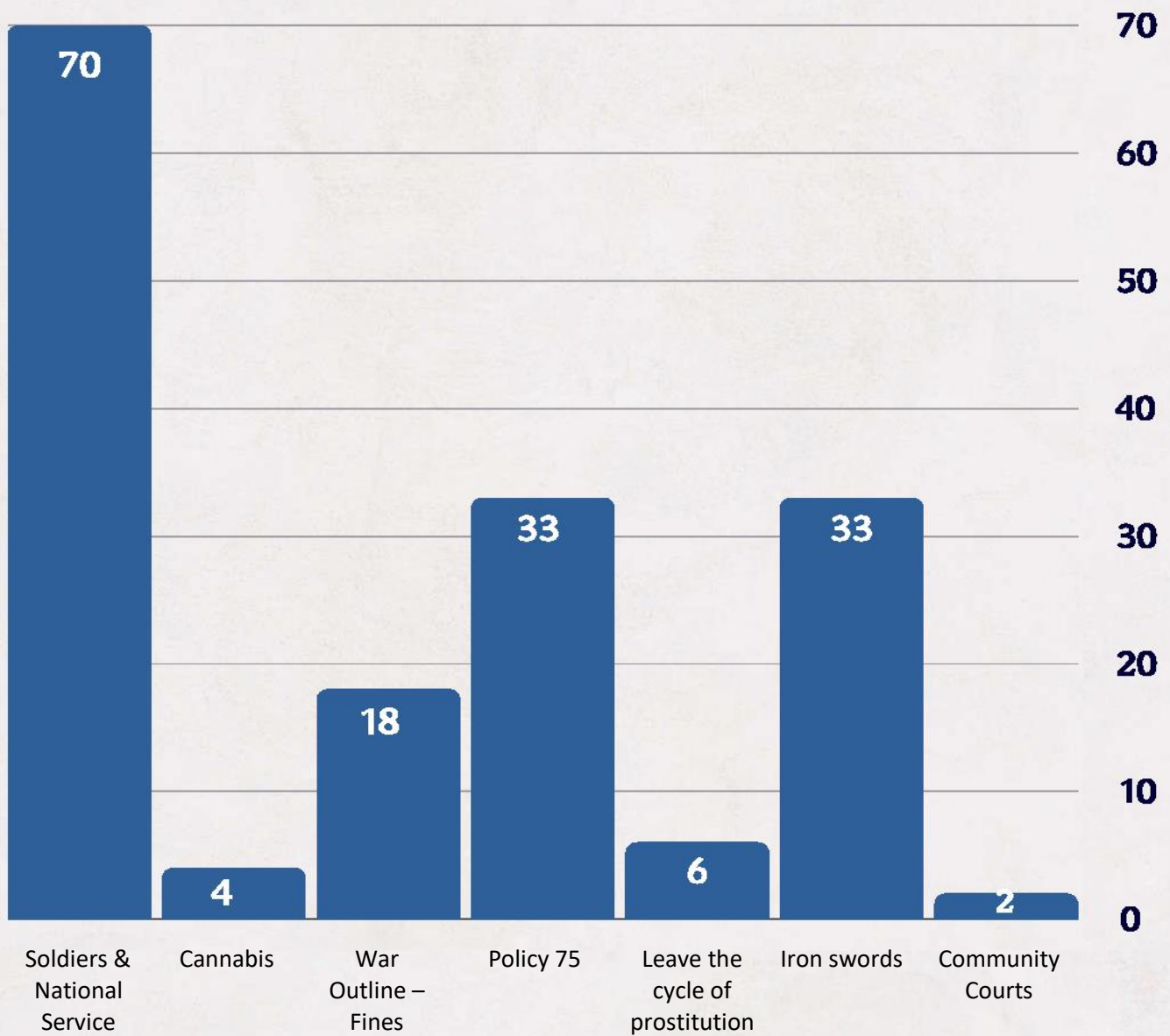
1,568 new requests in total





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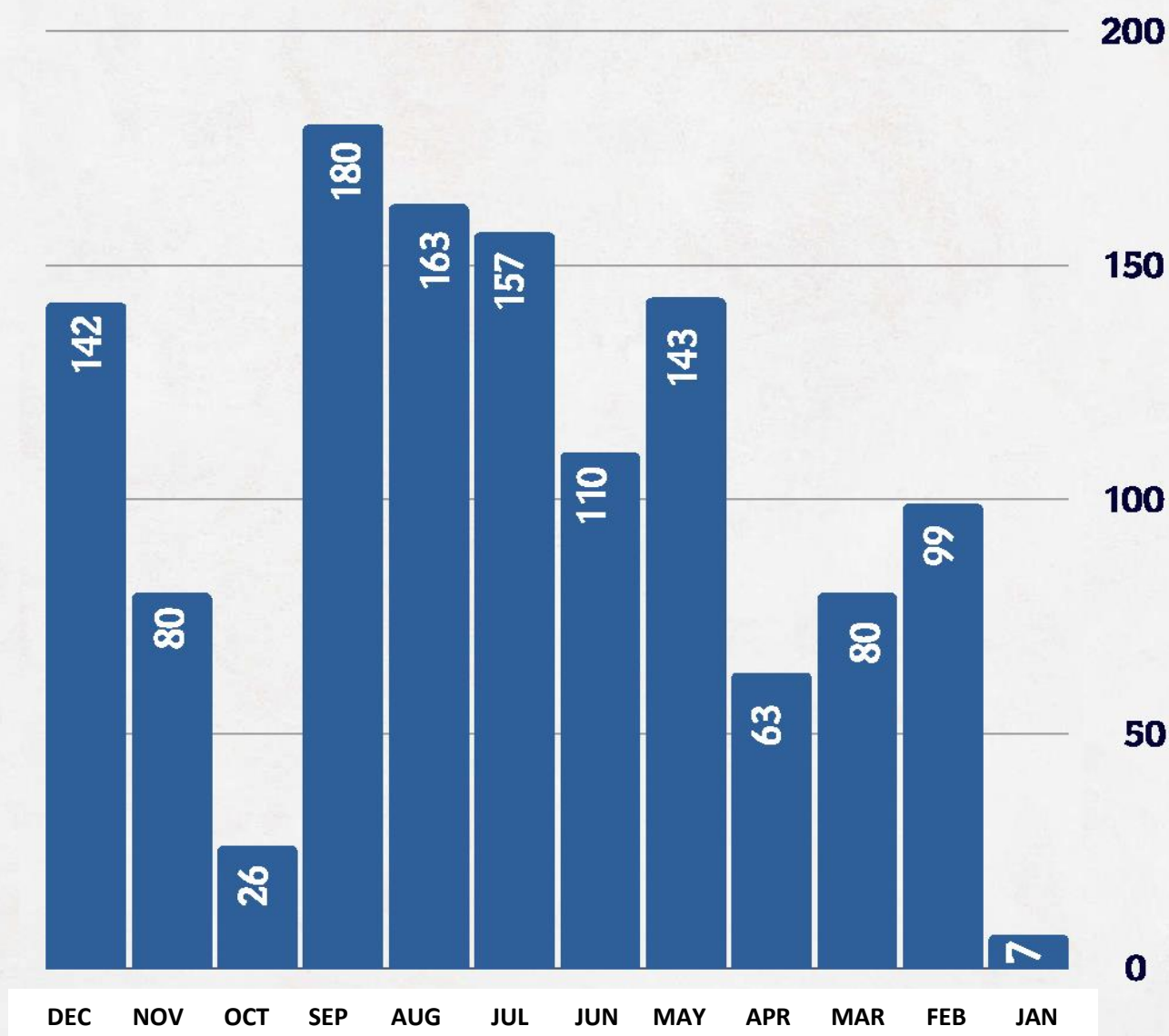
Pardon requests – outlines





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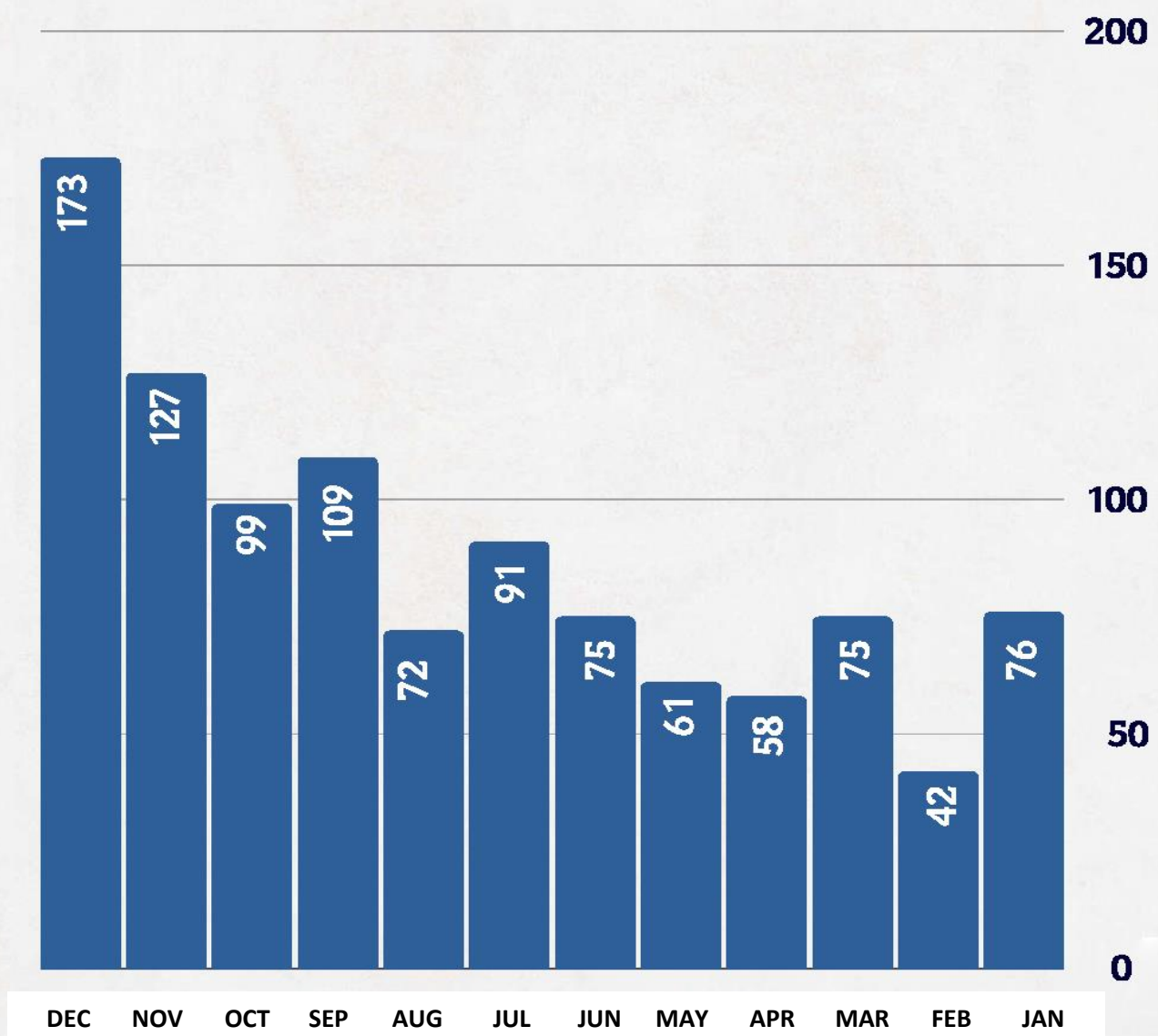
Opinions received from the Ministry of Justice





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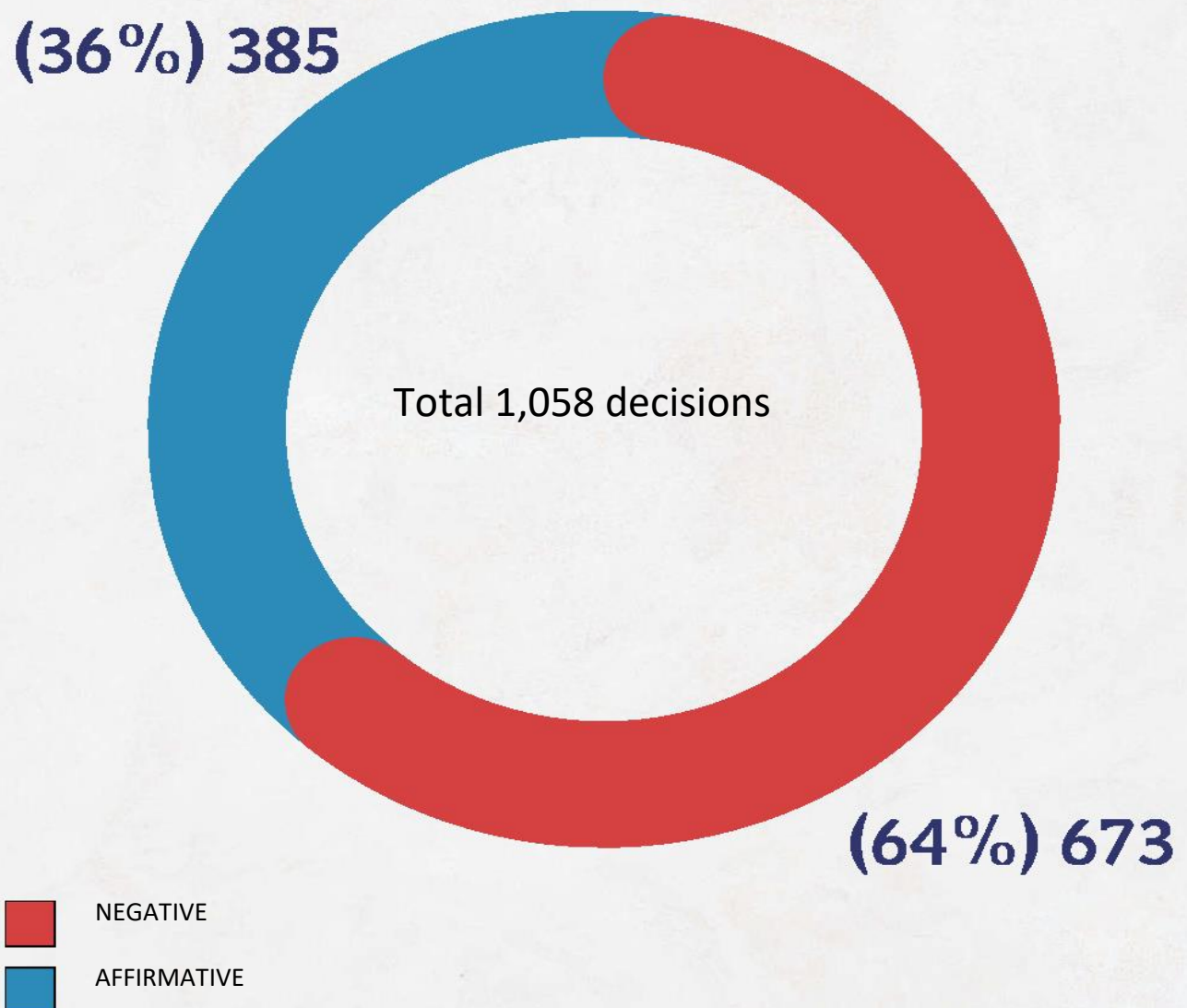
Number of Presidential Decisions





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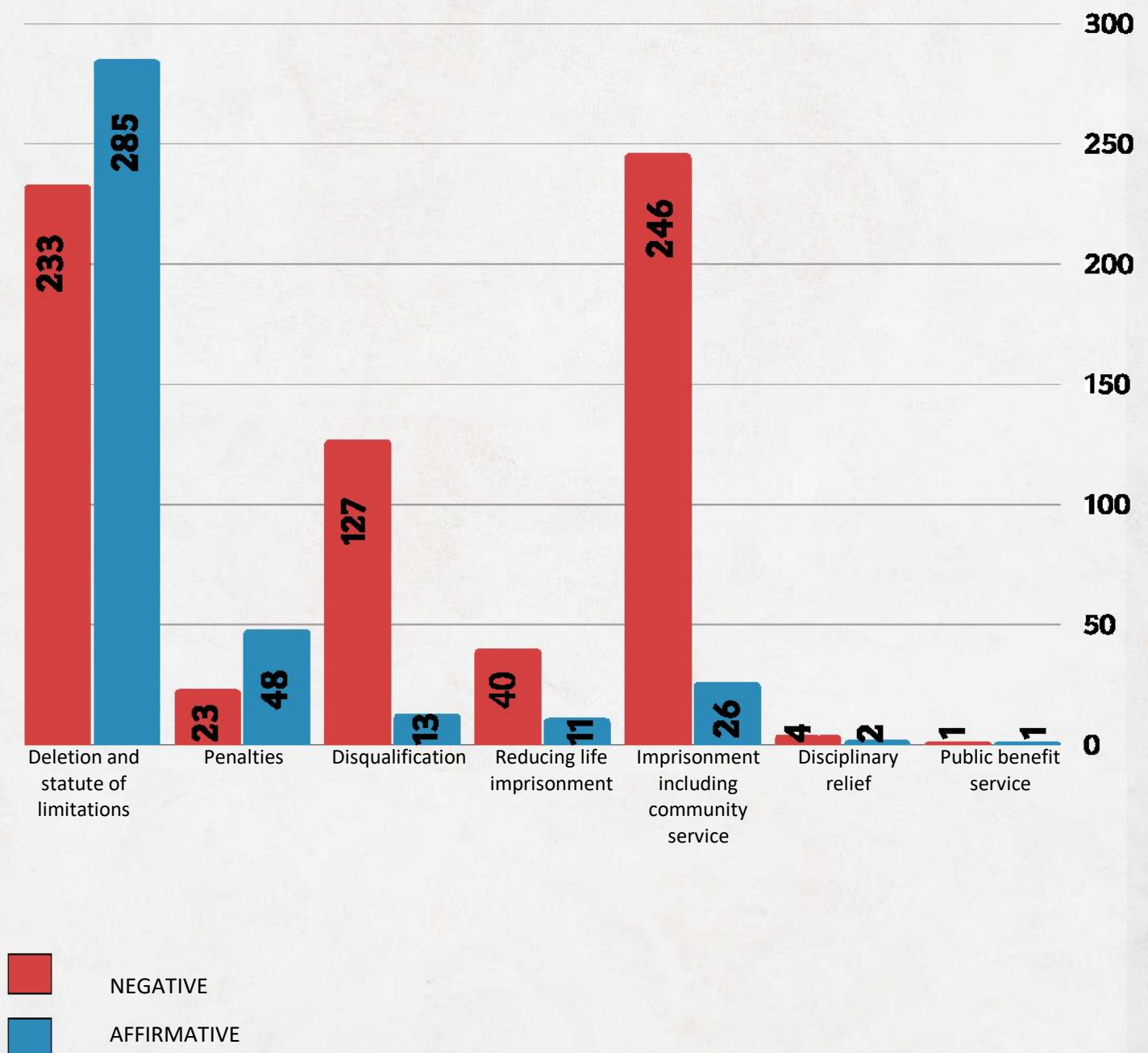
Breakdown of Decisions – 2023





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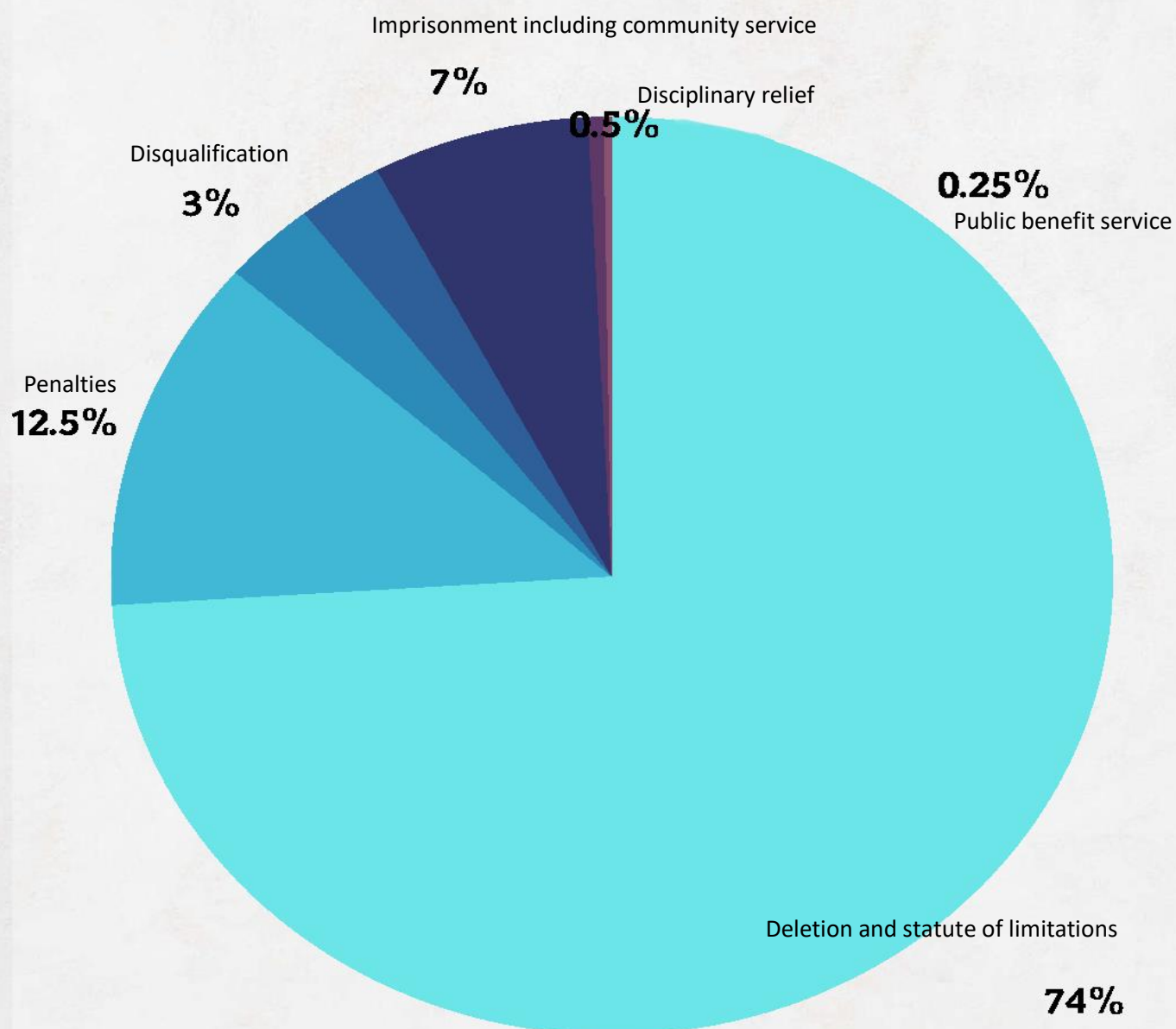
Decisions – by type of applications





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Affirmative Decisions





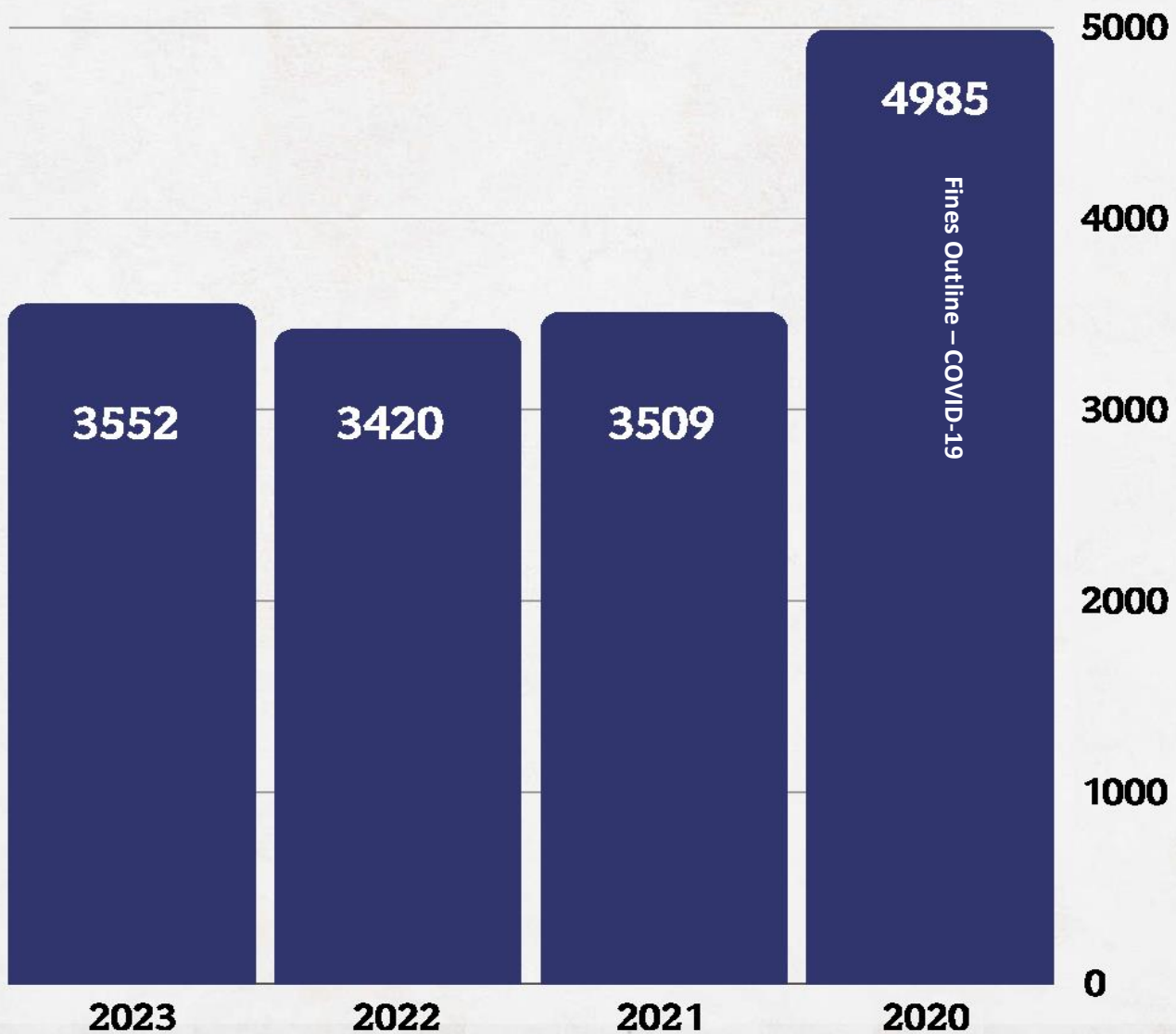
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Handling pardon applications a Multiyear perspective



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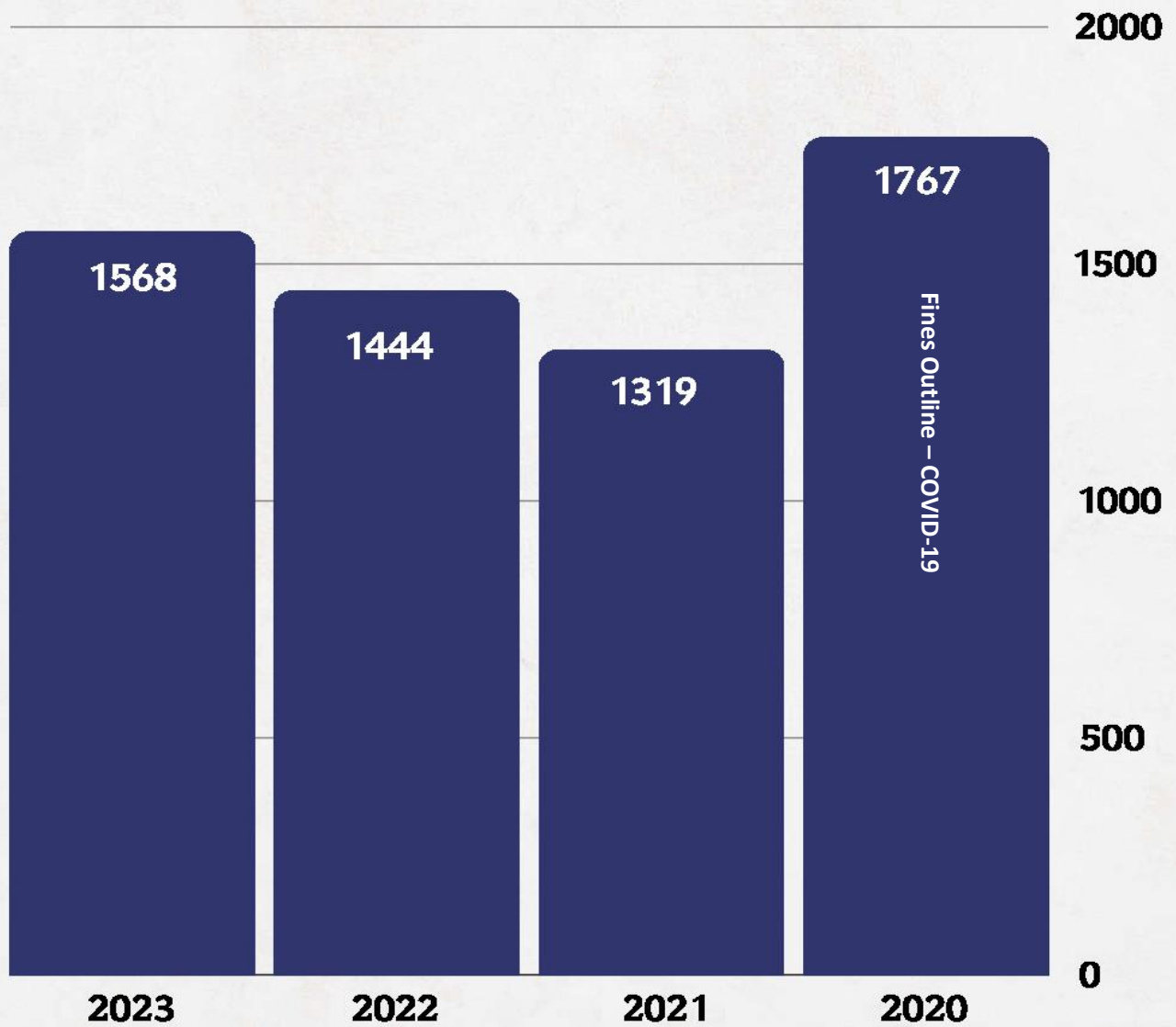
Written Applications Received





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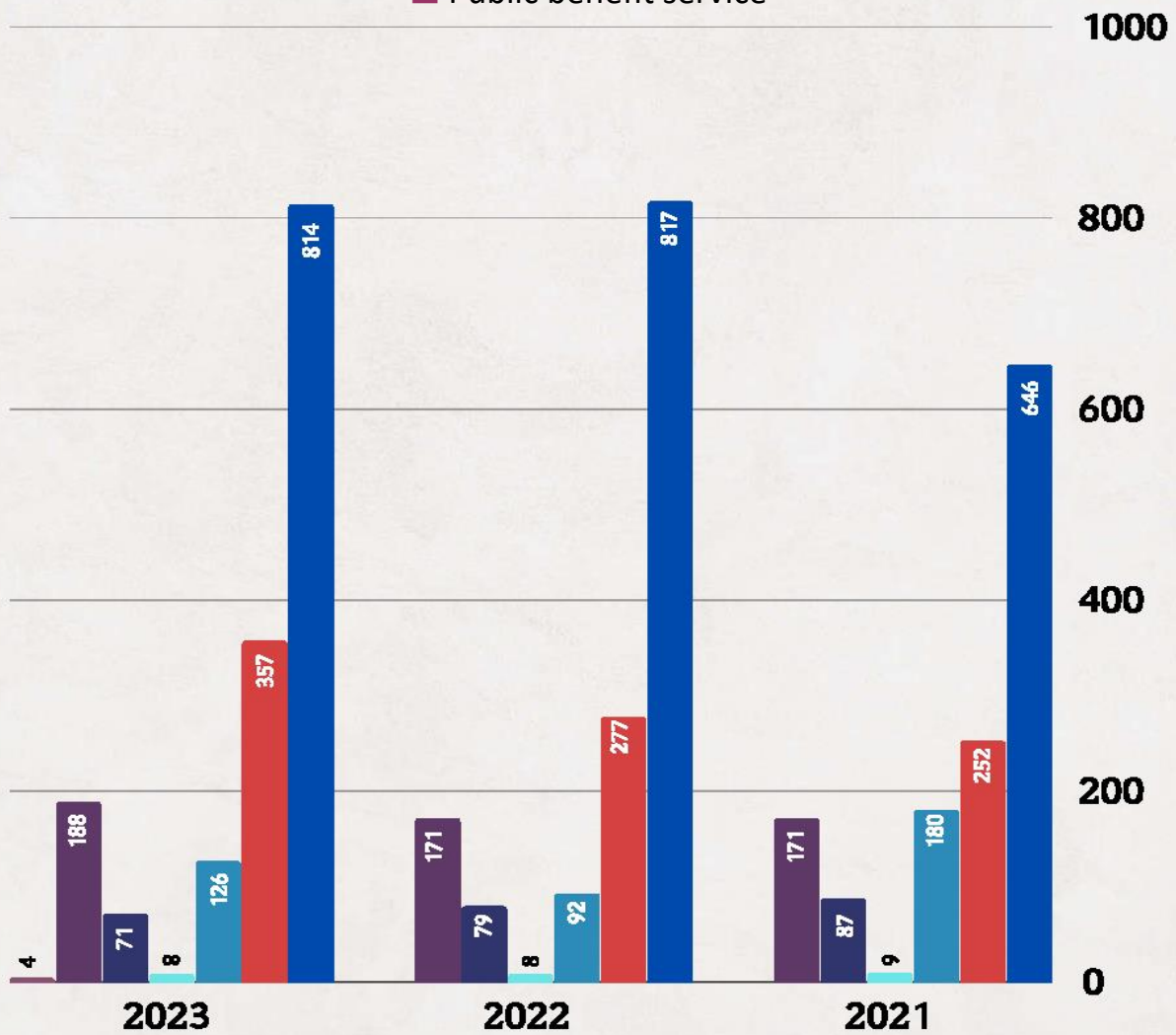
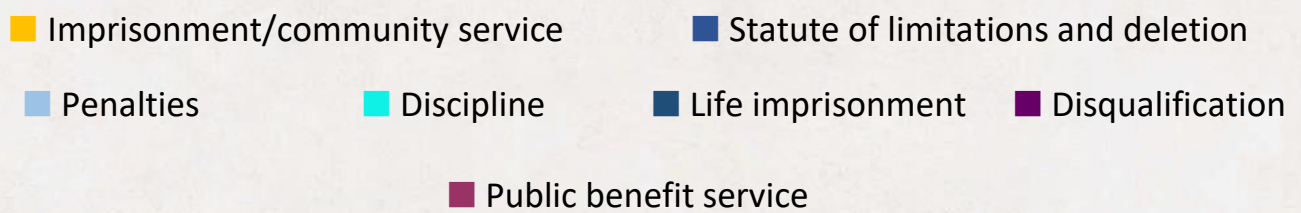
Pardon applications opened





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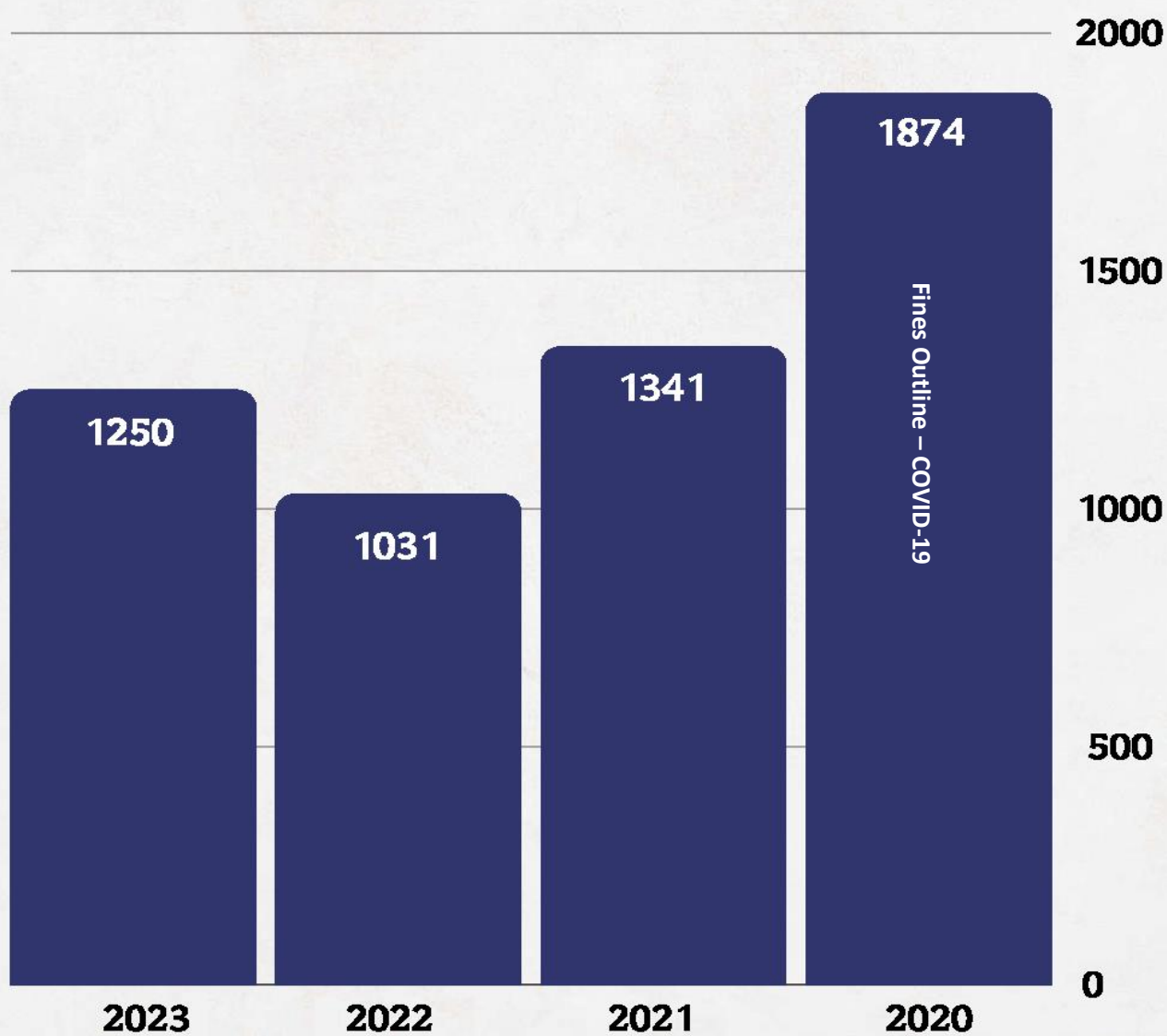
Reduction Requests –Penalty Type Breakdown





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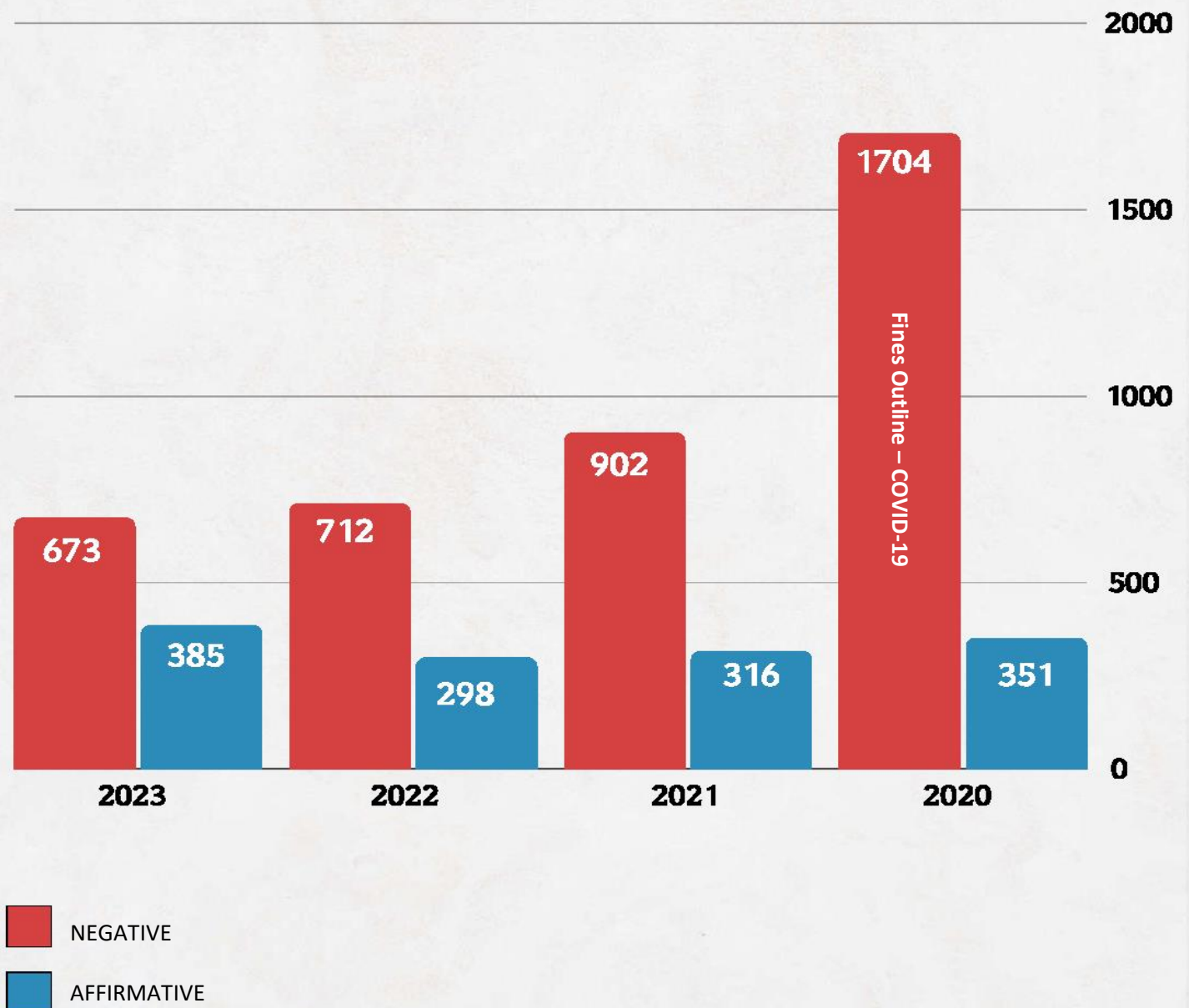
Opinions received from the Ministry of Justice





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Decisions – Multiyear

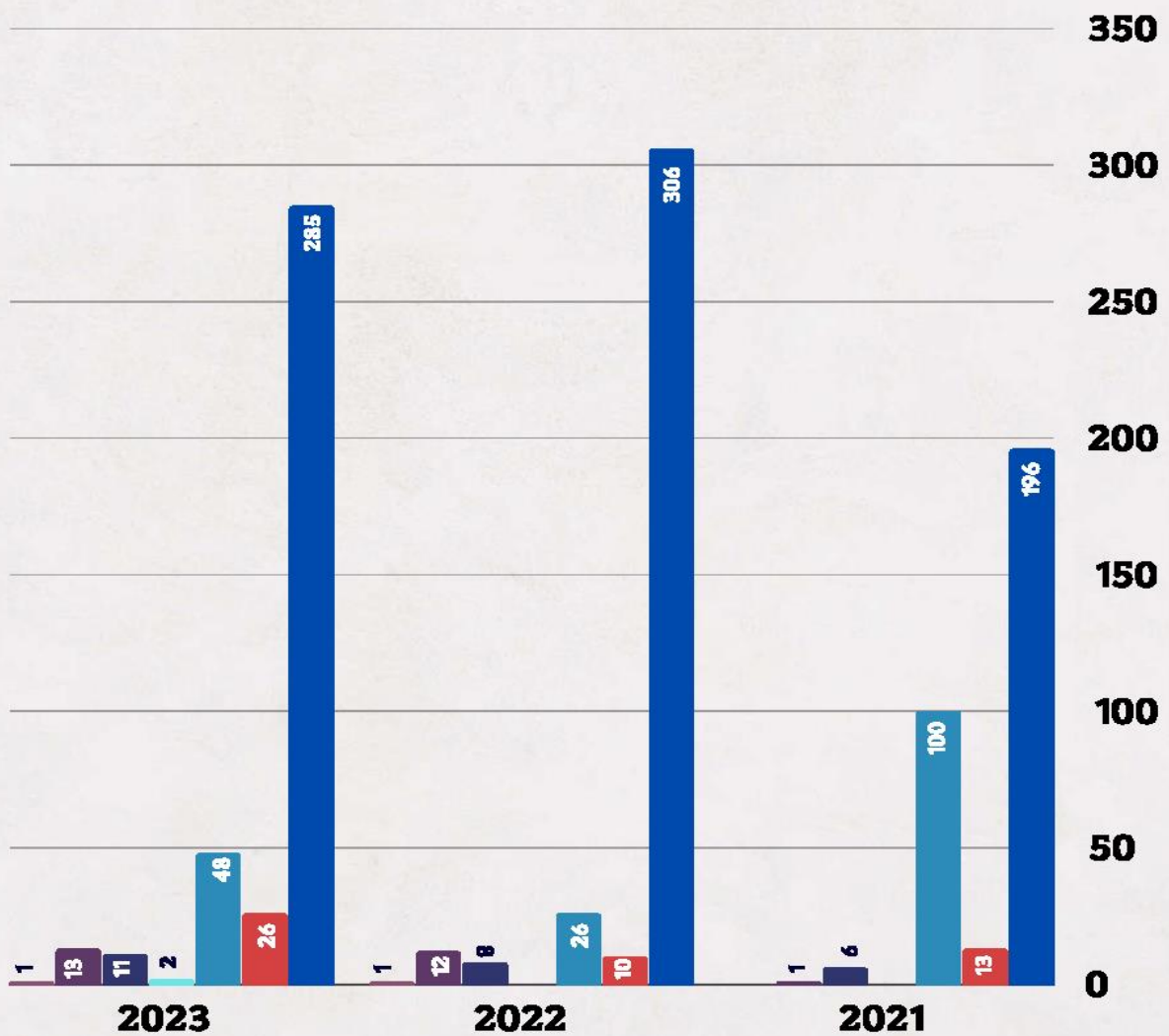




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Affirmative Decisions – Multiyear

- Imprisonment/community service
- Statute of limitations and deletion
- Penalties
- Discipline
- Life imprisonment
- Disqualification
- Public benefit service





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Policy of the 11th President of the State

2023



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Outline of the President of the State

Lenient policy





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Outline of the President of the State Strict Policy

Pardons of domestic
violence offenders

Pardon applications
for “climate and
environment”
offenses

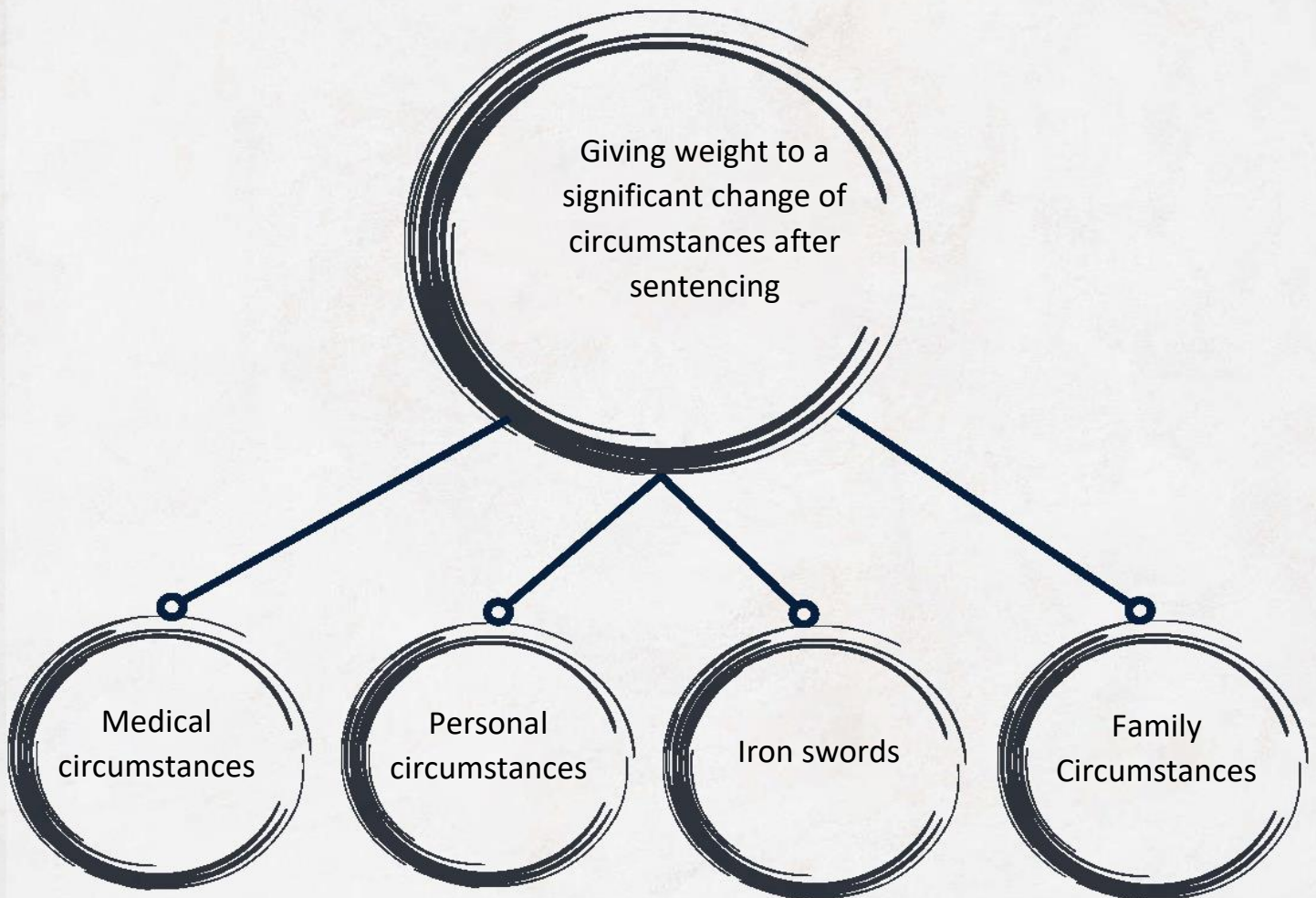
Sex offender pardon
applications

Requests for a reduction
in the penalties for
disqualification of a
driver's license from a
traffic offender



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Policy of the President of the State





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Presidential Policy

"Iron Swords" War

During the war, the President applied a lenient policy to applications that were classified as "emergencies" due to the "Iron Swords" war. That is, the first circle for casualties of war; residents of the conflict zone as well as those evicted from their homes. These circumstances joined the applicant's personal circumstances and were extensively considered.

War Outline – Reduction of Fines

This outline is intended to express the appreciation of the President of the State and the Minister of Justice for those who serve the State, for those who risk their lives for the protection of the State, as well as for those who contribute or have made a unique contribution to its security, and for those who lost the most precious of all in the heavy battle. As part of the outline, the use of the power to pardon in relation to the reduction of fines will be wider than usual, in two contexts:

Debts due to fines

A special amnesty outline for debtors in respect of fines, who found themselves in a difficult financial situation against the background of the war, and who find it difficult to pay their debts during this difficult crisis. These are unique populations – reservists and security forces, evacuees and those whose homes were damaged, families of the abducted, the fallen or murdered, who were directly affected by the state of war

Planning and construction

In addition, the outline will also be applied in the unique context of the field of planning and construction, emphasis will be placed on the difficulty of paying fines imposed on those who have built for residential purposes, in communities where there is a significant planning challenge. The outline is designed to express gratitude to all the populations serving in the IDF and the security forces, by way of examining the easing of fines, in appropriate cases.



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Affirmative Decisions in Pardon Applications

Characteristics 2023



Decisions to grant amnesty

Arrests, community service

- 22 decisions for release from prison/community service following a change in personal; family; health and economic circumstances. In addition, emphasis is also placed on the rehabilitation of the person in question.
- 3 decisions in the spirit of the President's outline in honor of the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel.
- One decision in the spirit of the "Iron Swords" war and a change of circumstances due to the war.
- One decision to shorten service - for the public benefit based on personal and family circumstances.

Life sentences reduction

- 10 decisions for the reduction of one life sentence, after receiving the position of the committee for periods between 30-37 years (the average reduction is 33.4 years).
- One decision for the reduction of two life sentences, after receiving the position of the parole board (reduction to 42-year).



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Disqualification and fines

48 decisions to mitigate a fine

- 42 decisions due to particularly difficult personal-financial circumstances.
- 3 decisions within the framework of the designated track for those who successfully meet the Community Court program.
- One decision in the framework of the outline for encouraging the exit from the cycle of prostitution for those previously sentenced for offenses on the background of being in the cycle of prostitution and where no prison sentence was imposed on them (against the background of the entry into force of the Prostitution Consumption Prohibition Law).
- 2 decisions in respect of the President's policy in honor of the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel.

13 Decisions to Ease a Disqualification Penalty

- 9 pardon decisions for the existence of unique circumstances, including exceptional personal and family circumstances as well as significant rehabilitation procedures.
- 2 decisions in the spirit of the "Iron Swords" war and a change of circumstances due to the war.
- One decision in respect of the President's policy in honor of the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel.
- One decision for an exceptional circumstance (the lawyer's exceptional negligence).



Statute of limitations period and deletion

285 decisions to shorten the statute of limitations and delete the criminal record – according to section 18 of the Criminal Record and Rehabilitation of Offenders Law – 1981

- 117 pardon decisions for the existence of unique circumstances, including exceptional personal and family circumstances as well as significant rehabilitation procedures.
- 34 decisions in the spirit of the President's outline in honor of the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel.
- 90 decisions regarding amnesty for national-civilian soldiers and servants who were sentenced to criminal offenses prior to their service, and did normal military or national-civilian service, and proved that they had changed their ways. Recommendations regarding them were received through the Chief Education and Youth Officer in the IDF or through the National Civilian Service Authority.
- 17 pardon decisions were made in the spirit of the provisions of the Criminal information and rehabilitation Law - 2019 (passed by the Knesset in January 2019 and its entry into force was postponed for procedural reasons to July 2022) and significantly shortened the statute of limitations and deletion of registration.
- 17 pardon decisions within the framework of the outline for deleting a criminal record for possession or use of cannabis for personal consumption.
- 6 Decisions in the spirit of the "Iron Swords" war and a change of circumstances following the war.
- 2 pardon decisions within the framework of the outline for deleting a criminal record for Ethiopian immigrants in the spirit of the report to eradicate racism.
- 2 pardon decisions within the framework of the outline for encouraging the exit from the cycle of prostitution to those who were previously sentenced for offenses on the background of being in the cycle of prostitution and were not sentenced to imprisonment (against the background of the entry into force of the Prostitution Prohibition Law).



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Decisions to grant amnesty Statute of limitations period and deletion





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Insights

- When the "Iron Swords" war began, there was an increase of about 45% in the number of applications received, compared to the previous months of this year.
- The number of pardon applications opened in October-December 2023 on the issue of deleting a criminal record is twice as large as the same period last year, an increase that occurred due to the "Iron Swords" war.
- Approximately 52% of pardon applications opened this year are requests to delete a criminal record.
- With the publication of the special amnesty outline – reducing fines in the shadow of the Iron Swords war, on 18/12/23 4 times more new requests were processed on the subject of reducing fines than the annual average (dozens of inquiries were also received on this issue that are not under the authority of the President's pardon, such as requests for arrangements at the Writ of execution. Some of the inquiries were forwarded to the Public Inquiries Department).
- The total number of affirmative decisions in criminal record deletion requests is 55%. The percentage of affirmative decisions on this issue was only 40% last year.
- This year too, as in the previous year, there was an identical increase of 25% in positive decisions to shorten statute of limitations and deletion periods for soldiers and civil national service servants who were sentenced to criminal proceedings prior to their service and did proper military or national-civil service and proved that they had changed their ways.