



Information Rights
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19th August 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/04790

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/04790

I write in connection with your request for information received on 24th July. I note you seek access to the following information:

1) How many incidents have been reported to your force of thefts being carried out in Churches or on church property from January 2017-to as close to present as possible?

a)If possible please could you clarify how many of the thefts recorded relate to lead being taken from the church roof?

2) How many incidents have been reported to your force of vandalism being carried out on Churches/ church property from January 2017-to as close to present as possible?

3) How many incidents have been reported to your force of physical/ violent assaults being carried out in Churches or on church property from 2017-to as close to present as possible?

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

RESPONSE - Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police and their crime recording systems within the Force please see our response in the tables below: -

Location Type / Crime Group	2017	2018	Grand Total
Church/Chapel/Cathedral	94	28	122
Bicycle Theft	2	2	4
Burglary	36	8	44
Criminal Damage	27	3	30
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society		1	1
Other Sexual Offences		2	2
Other Theft	18	6	24
Possession of Drugs	1		1
Public Order	4	1	5
Theft from the Person	2		2
Vehicle Offences	1	2	3
Violence with Injury		1	1
Violence without Injury	3	2	5
Churchyard/Cemetery/Crematorium	28	10	38
Arson	2	2	4
Bicycle Theft		1	1

Burglary	3		3
Criminal Damage	4	1	5
Other Sexual Offences	1		1
Other Theft	10	5	15
Possession of Weapons	1		1
Public Order	1		1
Rape	1		1
Vehicle Offences	2	1	3
Violence without Injury	3		3
Grand Total	122	38	160

*Source data: CMS (BedsReports)

**Theft, LEAD word search in the Crime Text; Location Type is 'CHURCH';
Recorded dates between: 1.1.2017 - 22.5.2018**

Crime Group / Property Stolen	2017	2018	Grand Total
Other Theft	3	1	4
Lead	3	1	4
Grand Total	3	1	4

*Source data: CMS (BedsReports)

**Recorded Crimes; Location Type is 'CHURCH'; Recorded dates between:
23.5.2018 - 30.6.2019**

Premises Type / Crime Group	2018	2019	Grand Total
Church / Place of worship	6	10	16
Bicycle Theft		1	1
Burglary - Non Dwelling	2	3	5
Criminal Damage	1	1	2
Public Order	2		2
Theft from the Person		1	1
Vehicle Offences	1		1
Violence with Injury		1	1
Violence without Injury		3	3
Grand Total	6	10	16

*Source data: Athena

* word search for 'LEAD' in the Athena Crime Text is **NIL** result.

Bedfordshire Police made a significant investment in a new ICT system, Athena, in May 2018, when fully implemented, will help keep Bedfordshire safe, bring more offenders to justice and improve outcomes for victims. Updating our ICT was absolutely necessary to ensure Bedfordshire Police remains as effective and efficient as possible. The public should be reassured crime continues to be reported and investigated as normal but whilst colleagues become more comfortable and familiar with how Athena works Bedfordshire Police has some concerns around data quality for which reason some of the data provided concerning events recorded after 23 May 2018, may include some inaccuracies. We apologise for the situation and are working to resolve it as soon as possible.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

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Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.