



Information Rights  
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,  
Woburn Road, Kempston,  
Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547  
Email: [foi@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

15th January 2020

Our Ref: FOI2019/07884

### REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/07884

I write in connection with your request for information received on 17th December. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) How many interviews in total are conducted annually in your Force?
- 2) How many are conducted in custody?
- 3) How many are not conducted in custody i.e. Mobile?
- 4) How many are video recorded in custody?
- 5) How many are video recorded not in custody i.e. Mobile?

#### CLARIFICATION REQUESTED: -

I appreciate you are asking for the number of 'annual interviews' however can you provide a date parameter for your request. As an early advice your request may well attract an over cost Freedom of Information exemption, as the information requested is not centrally recorded.

#### CLARIFICATION REC'D: - The previous 12 months please.

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 custody recording systems within the Force and your request concerning the number of interviews, whether video recorded or conducted outside of the custody area. This information is not all centrally recorded and in order for us to be able to answer your questions and retrieve the information will require a manual search and review of thousands of custody records, crime reports and investigation / case files to establish its relevance to your request. As a result of this and subsequent processes it will take in excess of the 18 hour time limit to secure the data and therefore make this request over cost.

Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require hundreds of records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –

*“Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”*

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Bedfordshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, I am able to provide the following information relative to your request, retrieved before the fees limit was exceeded. I hope this is helpful however; it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

1. 6302\*
2. 6082
3. Section 12 exemption
4. Section 12 exemption - All interviews in custody are capable of being visually recorded however this is selected at the discretion of the interviewing officer. The choice of audio only or audio & video is not recorded on the custody system.
5. Section 12 exemption.

\*Please note that the figure for Q1 is based on the number of investigations where an entry of 'Interview (Voluntary)' has been recorded added to the number of interviews recorded in custody. Where several interviews relating to the same suspect have been recorded as having happened at the same date & time, only 1 investigation has been counted. If the investigation has not been updated to include the 'Interview (Voluntary)' entry, then it is not possible to ascertain if the suspect has been interviewed or not outside of custody.

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

Yours sincerely

#### Information Rights

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.