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28th January 2019

Our Ref: FOI2018/07330

Dear Requestor

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/07330

I write in connection with your request for information received on 26th December. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.

1) How many criminal reports were made in the last five years (2018*, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014) under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 set out below? *up to the latest date you have recordings for*

Please break this down by year and say which section was invoked.

Section 47 – Paying for sexual services of a child
Section 48 – Causing or inciting sexual exploitation of a child
Section 49 – Controlling a child in relation to sexual exploitation
Section 50 – Arranging or facilitating sexual exploitation of a child
Section 51A – Soliciting
Section 52 – Causing or inciting prostitution for gain
Section 53 – Controlling prostitution for gain
Section 53A – Paying for sexual services of a prostitute subjected to force etc.

2) How many of these reports resulted in cautions and charges? Please break this down by year.

3) How many reports have been made within your service area in the last five years (2018*,2017,2016,2015,2014) in respect of the offence of keeping a brothel used for prostitution under section 33A of the Sexual Offences Act 1956? Please break this down by year.

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.

Following enquiries within the Force please see our response below.

Response – Bedfordshire Police have conducted a search of their crime systems and as a result can provide the following information as per the attachment.

Bedfordshire Police made a significant investment in a new ICT system, Athena, in May of this year which, 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, may include some inaccuracies. We apologise for the situation and are working to resolve it as soon as possible. Therefore the data has been provided in two separate tables.

Attachment – Annex A - FOI2018 07330

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

Gary Maxey
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.