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17th July 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/04018

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/04018

I write in connection with your request for information received on 19th June. I note you seek access to the following information:

Number of reports of stalking in the following calendar years: 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

CLARIFICATION - Please could I also have the number for 2012 - it was omitted in error.

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 table below: -

Recorded Crime: Stalking 01.01.2013 - 22.05.2018							
offence	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
(B) PURSUE COURSE OF CONDUCT IN BREACH OF SEC 1 (1) OF PFHA WHICH AMOUNTS TO STALKING	25	32	22	21	27	7	134
(B) STALKING INVOLVING FEAR OF VIOLENCE (HARASSMENT ACT SECTION 4A)	5	17	6	5	11	1	45
(B) STALKING INVOLVING SERIOUS ALARM/DISTRESS (HARASSMENT ACT SECTION 4A)	13	34	24	23	27	19	140
Grand Total	43	83	52	49	65	27	319

Source data: ibase

Recorded Crime: Stalking 23.05.2018 - 31.12.2018	
Row Labels	2018
HARASSMENT - PURSUE COURSE OF CONDUCT IN BREACH OF SEC 1 (1) WHICH AMOUNTS TO STALKING	34
STALKING INVOLVING FEAR OF VIOLENCE	15
Grand Total	49

Source data: Athena

Stalking offences were brought in from October 2012 and no records held for this year.

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

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.