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Our Ref: FOI2019/04140

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/04140

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

Please also note I am asking for the information to be broken down by calendar year.

1. **How many people have been charged with possession (just possession, not possession with intent to supply) of cannabis over the past five calendar years?**
2. **Can this figure be broken down by calendar 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.

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

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.

Recorded Possession of Cannabis - dates: 1.1.2014 - 22.5.2018						
Crime Type / Outcome	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
92E - Possession Of Controlled Drugs (Cannabis)	944	837	890	771	312	3754
Cannabis Warning	381	285	286	244	98	1294
Caution	144	115	125	95	41	520
Charge / Summons	237	219	223	217	67	963
Community Resolution	60	59	68	61	17	265
Pnd	38	37	30	22	10	137
Unsolved	84	122	158	132	79	575
Grand Total	944	837	890	771	312	3754

*Source data: CMS BedsReports

Recorded Possession of Cannabis - dates: 23.5.2018 - 30.06.2019			
Offence / Outcome	2018	2019	Grand Total
092/61 - Attempted - Having possession of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	1		1
Cannabis Warning	1		1
092/61 - Having possession of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	508	457	965
Cannabis Warning	210	148	358
Caution	56	39	95
Charged / Summons	110	71	181
Community Resolution	31	17	48
Pnd	11	14	25
Unsolved	90	168	258
092/66 - POSSESS CANNABIS A CLASS C CONTROLLED DRUG	2		2
Cannabis Warning	1		1
Community Resolution	1		1
Grand Total	511	457	968

*Source data: Athena - BedsReports

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.