



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

Telephone: 01234 842547
 Email: foi@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

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Our Ref: FOI2019/02832

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/02832

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

The number of police cases related to drug offences where a social media platform is mentioned in the report for each year from 2015 to present. Please break this down by year, the type of offence, the social media platform or website (i.e Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok...etc), whether a conviction was reached, and any additional details about the case you can include.

CLARIFICATION - By social media I mean: Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok, or SnapChat.

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 databases please see our response in the table below: -

Recorded Crime: Drug Offences - Free Text search Facebook/Twitter/Whatsapp/Instagram/TikTok/Snapchat 01.01.2015 – 30.04.2019			
OUTCOME/SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM	2016	2018	Grand Total
CHARGED		1	1
(B) STATE BASED: MISUSE OF DRUGS HAVING POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED DRUG - CLASS A COCAINE		1	1
TWITTER		1	1
CAUTION	1	1	2
(B) STATE BASED: DRUGS - CLASS B CANNABIS - POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED DRUG	1	1	2
FACEBOOK	1	1	2
Grand Total	1	2	3

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.

Please note, no results were found on the Athena crime recording system.

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.