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Our Ref: FOI2019/03025

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/03025

I write in connection with your request for information received on 7th May. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request some information on arrests and charges under the Vagrancy Act. I would like to know:

a. The number of people who have been arrested for begging (or offences under S.3 Vagrancy Act 1824) in each financial year from 2014/15 to 2018/19 (or the most recent data you have – if this means providing the data by calendar year, that's fine).

b. The number of people who have been charged with begging (or offences under S.3 Vagrancy Act 1824) in each financial year from 2014/15 to 2018/19 (or the most recent data you have – if this means providing the data by calendar year, that's fine).

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 please see our responses below: -

Recorded Crimes/Incidents: S3. Vagrancy Act 1824_01.04.2014 - 31.03.2019			
	2018/19	2018/19	Grand Total
Arrested=Y/OUTCOME/OFFENCE	Non Crimes	Public Order	
Y	3	1	4
CHARGED/SUMMONS	2	1	3
SEC 5 POA HARASSMENT, ALARM OR DISTRESS		1	1
VAGRANCY ACT 1824 , BEGGING, GATHERING ALMS OR CAUSING OR PROCURING ANY CHILD SO TO DO	1		1
VAGRANCY ACT 1824 , OTHER OFFENCES (AGAINST VAGRANCY ACTS); ANY PETTY CHAPMAN OR PEDDLER TRADING WITHOUT A LICENCE	1		1
UNSOLVED	1		1
VAGRANCY ACT 1824 , BEGGING, GATHERING ALMS OR CAUSING OR PROCURING ANY CHILD SO TO DO	1		1
Grand Total	3	1	4

There is no pre Athena data, therefore no other data available until May 2018.

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.