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Our Ref: FOI2019/03398

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/03398

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

Police Force

01 January 2017 – 01 January 2018 and 01 January 2018 – 01 January 2019

1. How many police officers were employed by this force?

Child Arrests and Charging Decisions

01 January 2017 – 01 January 2018 and 01 January 2018 – 01 January 2019

1. How many children were arrested by this force?

2. How many of the arrests resulted in drugs-related charges?

3. How many of the arrests resulted in theft-related charges?

4. How many of the arrests resulted in offensive weapons/bladed articles charges?

5. How many of the arrested children were referred to the National Referral Mechanism to be assessed as trafficking or slavery victims? This includes children who were charged or released under investigation; and those the police took no further action against.

Human trafficking and slavery training

01 January 2017 – 01 January 2018 and 01 January 2018 – 01 January 2019

1. Please specify the contents of the mandatory training courses (the names of the courses were disclosed in response to Hestia's FOI).

2. Please confirm whether the mandatory training courses included:

(a) The legal definition of human trafficking and slavery;

(b) Trafficking/slavery indicators;

(c) The duty of police officers to identify and refer crime suspects who may be potential victims of trafficking or slavery to the National Referral Mechanism;

(d) How to refer crime suspects who may be potential victims to the National Referral Mechanism; and

(e) The non-punishment principle (as enshrined in international and domestic law) – which requires police to refer crime suspects who may be potential victims, rather than to prematurely charge them.

3. Please confirm the duration and mode (i.e. lecture/e-learning) of the mandatory training courses.

4. Please confirm whether police officers were required to attend Continuing Professional Development sessions on human trafficking and slavery, or whether the mandatory courses were limited to one session only.

5. Please confirm how many police officers from your force attended and studied the mandatory course sessions.

6. Please confirm how police officers' attendance and study of the mandatory course were monitored.

7. Please confirm how police officers' understanding and competence in this course was examined.

8. If police officers were examined on this course, please confirm how many police officers successfully passed it.

9. If police officers were not examined on this course – why not?

If unable to answer questions/provide data

1. If not able to answer a question, why not?

2. If not able to answer a question, does the data exist?

3. Is the data does not exist, why not?

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 various departments within the Force within the Force we have not been able to provide all of the requested data in relation to “how many police officers from your force attended and studied the mandatory course sessions” (Part 2, question 5). The data does not exist in retrievable format, as a result a manual search of hundreds, probably thousands of records and reports accessing every single course and head counting will be necessary. This process will take over the 18 hour time limit making this request over cost, therefore it is not possible to provide this data.

Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require hundreds of records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –
“Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Bedfordshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, I am able to provide the following information relative to your request, retrieved before the fees limit was exceeded. I hope this is helpful however; it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Following enquiries please see our responses below and also on the attached document marked as Annex A – FOI2019 03398 for Part 2.

01 January 2017 – 01 January 2018 and 01 January 2018 – 01 January 2019 - The date parameters here do not generate the need for two separate sets of answers. The IPLDP/PCSO/specials curriculum has been in place for sufficiently long enough to cover the full period.

Part 1 - Bedfordshire Police currently has a headcount of 1,163 Officers and 1,117 staff (inc. PCSO's).

Part 2 - Child Arrests and Charging Decisions – see the attached document marked as Annex A – FOI2019 03398

Part 3 - Human trafficking and slavery training: -

1. IPLDP initial recruits are trained in accordance with College of Policing curriculum module ref PROTX409 Modern Slavery General Awareness the learning outcomes are as follows:
 - (i) Explain the key elements of modern slavery and human trafficking
 - (ii) Outline the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act 2015
 - (iii) Describe how people become victims of modern slavery/human trafficking
 - (iv) Outline the techniques offenders use to recruit, control and maintain influence over their victims
 - (v) Describe how victims of modern slavery and/or human trafficking are likely to be encountered
 - (vi) Explain how victims of modern slavery/human trafficking may be recognised or identified
 - (vii) Outline how victims of modern slavery and/or human trafficking can be helped and protected
 - (viii) Describe how evidence may be gathered during the initial stages of a modern slavery/human trafficking incident
2.
 - (a) YES
 - (b) YES
 - (c) YES
 - (d) YES
 - (e) YES
3.
 - Regular officers get a half day input during Week 10 of the generic 14 week timetable
 - PCSOs get a very brief oversight as part of the general introduction to public protection session.
 - Special Constables get the same as regular IPLDP but only in phase 2 of their training program. i.e. not as part of the initial training phase.
4. None
5. Over cost as above. All new recruits passing through Initial Training is subject to the full timetable program.

6. Student contracts and trainer objectives ensures 100% completion of the course. If sickness or other reason causes a student to miss any part of the course there is a mandatory requirement to rearrange commitments in order to cover missed subjects.
7. Presentation material includes an informal knowledge check and knowledge is further tested as part of the final course exam along with the other 72 curriculum modules.
8. Searches failed to locate any records / documents relevant to your request. Accordingly I have determined that Bedfordshire Police do not hold the information you have requested.
9. N/A

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.