



Geneen Bill
 Information Rights
 Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
 Woburn Road, Kempston,
 Bedford, MK43 9AX

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

5th March 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/00849

Dear Requestor

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/00849

I write in connection with your request for information received on 5th February. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please provide me with your official policy on the enforcement of cannabis possession as a class B controlled drug.
Please provide me with a breakdown of outcomes where people have been proceeded against for the offence of possession of cannabis (Just possession, not possession with intent to supply) over the last two calendar years (2017 and 2018).

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 within the Force please see our response below.

Cannabis Possession Recorded between 1.1.2017 - 23.5.2018			
92E - Possession Of Controlled Drugs (Cannabis)	2017	2018	Grand Total
Youth Caution	11	6	17
Cannabis Warning	244	272	516
Caution	84	87	171
Charge/Summons	210	156	366
Community Resolution	58	42	100
Penalty Notice Disorder	22	21	43
Unsolved	15	148	163
Grand Total	644	732	1376

Bedfordshire Police made a significant investment in a new ICT system, Athena, in May of this year which, 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, 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

Geneen Bill
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.