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Information Rights
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13th March 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/01036

By email only to:

Dear

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/01036

I write in connection with your request for information received on 13th February. I note you seek access to the following information:

Would you please provide the following information for the year 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2018.

You may find it helpful to obtain a copy of the most recent list of children's homes addresses in your area which are sent regularly by Ofsted to each force's Chief Constable (please contact your Chief Constable's Staff Officer to obtain a copy of this list):

Q1: The total number of times the police were called out to residential children's homes in the area covered by your police force.

Q2: If possible, please break down these figures by home and total number of 'callouts'.

NB we understand that you are not able to disclose the names or locations of homes.

Q3: If possible, please break the figures down by reason for call-out, as follows: total number of callouts, call outs for missing incidents, alleged criminal offences & safeguarding incidents

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 - Bedfordshire Police does not centrally record 'call-outs' to children's residential homes, therefore we have had to conduct a manual search for the information requested. This search has included our police databases and exceeds the 18 hour limit as each record has to be read through and we hold hundreds of records of incidents / crimes.

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.

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.

Recorded Crimes between: 1.1. - 22.5. 2018 Location Type = Children's Home				
Crime Type	Charge / Summons	Community Resolution	Unsolved	Grand Total
Children's Home	7	10	17	34
105A - Assault Without Injury	2	5	3	10
20A - Sexual Assault On A Female Aged 13 Or Over			1	1
3B - Threats To Kill			1	1
49 - Other Theft Or Unauthorised Taking	1			1
56B - Arson Not Endangering Life			1	1
58A - Criminal Damage- To Dwellings		2	3	5
58B - Criminal Damage - To Other Buildings		1		1
58D - Criminal Damage - Other	1	2		3
86 - Obscene Publications Etc.			3	3
8N - Assault With Injury	2		5	7
8P - Racially Or Religiously Aggravated Assault With Injury	1			1
Grand Total	7	10	17	34

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.

Recorded Crimes between: 23.5. - 31.12. 2018 Premises Type = Children's Home						
	Adult Caution	Charged / Summons	Community Resolution	Unsolved	Youth Caution	Grand Total
Children's Home	1	4	5	30	5	45
ARSON				1		1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	1	1	2	5	5	14
OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES				2		2
POSSESSION OF DRUGS			1			1
POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES				1		1
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES				1		1
VIOLENCE WITH INJURY			2	10		12
VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY		3		10		13
Grand Total	1	4	5	30	5	45

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.