



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

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

20th March 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/01224

Dear Requestor

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/01224

I write in connection with your request for information received on 20th February. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) How many police stations have been:
 - a) Permanently closed and/or mothballed
 - b) Opened

...in your force area since 2010.

NB: Please provide the data in calendar years up to the end of 2018?

We are using the Metropolitan Police definition of 'police station' which is an operational building that has a front counter.

- 2) How many custody suites have been:
 - a) Permanently closed and/or mothballed
 - b) Opened

...in your force area since 2010.

NB: Please provide the data in calendar years as above.

- 3) How many custody cells have been:
 - a) Permanently closed and/or mothballed
 - b) Opened

...in your force area since 2010.

NB: Please provide the data in calendar years as above.

- 4) What was the net loss or gain to the force in terms of the overall number of custody cells since 2010?

Further to my FOI request submitted on the 20/02/19 I have one additional question that I would like your team to answer under the Freedom of Information Act. The question follows on directly from my original FOI which is copy and pasted below:

- 5) How many:
 - a) Police stations (using the same definition as my original FOI)
 - b) Custody suites
 - c) Custody cells

...did you have within your force area on 31/12/09?

NB: I would like individual totals to be provided for the above three categories.

For example, if your reply to Question 1 of my original FOI request (submitted on 20/02/19) was that you had closed down or mothballed 1 police station and opened none within the calendar year 2010, I want to know how many police stations you started out the year with. The same goes for custody cells and custody suites.

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: -

1a. Bedfordshire Police have closed 3 stations using the definition below: Ampthill (2015), Leighton Buzzard (2017) & Greyfriars (2017). Biggleswade Station and Houghton Regis both lost their front counter service 2012 but remain operational bases.

b. We have opened one 2017 (Lime Street).

2a. 2 have been closed, Greyfriars in 2014 and Dunstable which has been a reserve site for a number of years, closed permanently 2018

b. 1 has opened December 2017

3a. Greyfriars 11 cells + 2 detention rooms, Dunstable 14 cells + 2 detention rooms

b. HQ site opened 2014 with 18 cells – please note this is a temporary facility with a permanent replacement expected operational 2022 with 22 cells

4. Loss of 7 cells (as per 3 above this is temporary and will change to a net loss of 3 cells once the permanent facility is operational)

5a. 4 operational police stations with front counter (Lime Street, Dunstable, Luton and Headquarters)

b. 2 Luton and HQ

c. 18 at HQ + 21 at Luton

Definition of 'police station' used as - an operational building that has a front counter.

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.