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29th March 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/01446

Dear Requestor

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/01446

I write in connection with your request for information received on 1st March. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Could you please supply me with the following information for your area:

1) How many drone-related (ie unmanned aerial vehicle, or small unmanned aircraft-related) crimes have been recorded by your force in each calendar year between 1st Jan 2014 and 28th Feb 2019? Please exclude thefts of drones.

2) Of those recorded crimes, for each calendar year, how many have involved a possible threat to aircraft safety?

Should this require a free text search, please use the terms:

Drone, UAV, unmanned aerial vehicle, unmanned aircraft, airfield, airport, airspace, air traffic, plane, helicopter.

3) How many arrests for drone-related offences has your force made in each calendar year between 1st Jan 2014 and 28th Feb 2019? Please exclude thefts of drones.

4) Of these arrests, for each calendar year, how many related to a possible threat to aircraft safety?

5) Where an arrest was made, what was the outcome? (eg charged, released under investigation, no further action etc)

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 have conducted searches of their ‘crime recording databases’ and are able to provide the following information - please see our response in the below tables: -

Crimes where word 'DRONE' is recorded in the Crime Text (1.1.2014 - 22.5.2018)					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Criminal Damage			1	2	3
Possession of Drugs	3	1			4
Public Order				3	3
Trafficking of Drugs	1	3			4
Violence with Injury			2		2
Violence without Injury			1		1
Grand Total	4	4	4	5	17

*Source data: iBase/Search30=60/CMS

* The above data does NOT include Theft & Burglary offences

* None of the above crimes were recorded at the airport

Crimes where word 'DRONE' is recorded in the Crime Text (1.1.2014 - 22.5.2018)					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Criminal Damage			1	2	3
Possession of Drugs	3	1			4
Public Order				3	3
Trafficking of Drugs	1	3			4
Violence with Injury			2		2
Violence without Injury			1		1
Grand Total	4	4	4	5	17

*Source data: iBase/Search30=60/CMS

* The above data does NOT include Theft & Burglary offences

* None of the above crimes were recorded at the airport

Crimes where word 'DRONE' is recorded in the Crime Text (1.1.2014 - 22.5.2018)					
Outcome / Crime Description	2014	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
CHARGED	1	3	1	1	6
Public Order				1	1
Trafficking of Drugs	1	3			4
Violence with Injury			1		1
Simple Caution	2	1			3
Possession of Drugs	2	1			3
SUMMONS	1				1
Possession of Drugs	1				1
Unsolved			3	4	7
Criminal Damage			1	2	3
Public Order				2	2
Violence with Injury			1		1
Violence without Injury			1		1
Grand Total	4	4	4	5	17

*Source data: iBase/Search30=60/CMS

* The above data does NOT include Theft & Burglary offences

* None of the above crimes were recorded at the airport

Crimes where word 'DRONE' is recorded in the Crime Text (23.5.-28.02.2019)

2018	3
NON-NOTIFIABLE	1
PUBLIC ORDER OFFENCES	1
VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY	1
Grand Total	3
*Source data: Athena * The above data does NOT include Theft & Burglary offences * None of the above crimes were recorded at the air-port	

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

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.