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9th May 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/02435

Dear Requestor

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/02435

I write in connection with your request for information received on 9th April. I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to make the following request under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide figures for the last three years on the number of illegal cannabis farms discovered by your force. Please provide 2016, 2017 and 2018 figures and if possible up to date figures for 2019.

(If you log your figures differently to calendar year, please provide the last three full available years)

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 their crime recording systems.

Bedfordshire Police made a significant investment in a new ICT system, Athena, in May 2018 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.

Please see the tables below which provide information on DRUGS - CLASS B CANNABIS - PRODUCTION (INCLUDES CULTIVATION) OR BEING CONCERNED IN PRODUCTION OF A CONTROLLED DRUG

Trafficking of Drugs Recorded on CMS between 1.1.2016 & 22.5.2018				
Row Labels	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total
09221 TRAFFICKING IN CONTROLLED DRUGS	55	55	13	123
0006 - DWELLING-MID TERRACED	5	6		11
0007 - DWELLING-END OF TERRACE	3	2		5
0014 - DWELLING-PRIVATE DWELLING		1		1
8001 - DWELLING-BUNGALOW	2			2
8004 - DWELLING-DETACHED		2	1	3
8005 - DWELLING-SEMI-DETACHED	13	6		19
8007 - DWELLING-FLAT IN BLOCK OF FLATS	8	6		14
8008 - DWELLING-FLAT OR BEDSITTER IN HOUSE	2			2
8010 - DWELLING-PART OF OTHER PREMISES		1		1

8022 - DWELLING-GARDEN/YARD	1	1		2
8030 - DWELLING-FLAT ABOVE SHOP/OTHER	2			2
8044 - DWELLING-TYPE UNKNOWN	12	16	10	38
8045 - DWELLING-GREENHOUSE		1		1
8113 - CAR PARK - FLAT PRIVATE		1		1
8121 - MAIN ROAD		1		1
8130 - CARAVAN		2		2
8132 - GYPSY/TRAVELLER SITE	1	1	1	3
8259 - OTHER SHOP			1	1
8397 - OUTSIDE PREMISES	1			1
8554 - FARM/FARM BUILDING	1			1
8556 - INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	1	1		2
8559 - STORE/CONTAINERS		1		1
8565 - OUTBLDNG/SHED OTHER THAN DWELLING	1	1		2
8595 - YARD/COMPOUND OTHER THAN DWELLING		1		1
8770 - AIRPORT/AIRFIELD		2		2
8790 - ALLOTMENT/ALLOTMENT BUILDING		1		1
8795 - LAND, AGRICULTURAL OR NURSERY	1			1
8796 - LAND, WASTE, UNDEVELOPED OR COMMON	1			1
8797 - WOOD/COPSE/FOREST		1		1
Grand Total	55	55	13	123

*Source data: CMS /iBase / Crime Desk

Trafficking of Drugs Recorded on ATHENA between 23.5.2018 & 30.4.2019			
Row Labels	2018	2019	Grand Total
092/21 - Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis	61	41	102
Camping / Caravan / Holiday Site	2		2
Farm Land	1		1
Flat/Apartment	2		2
Forest / Wood	1		1
House - Bungalow	1	1	2
House- Detached	1		1
House- End Terrace	2	1	3
House- Mid Terrace	3	2	5
House- Semi Detached		4	4
(blank)	48	33	81
Grand Total	61	41	102

*Source data: Athena / Beds Reports

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.