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10th May 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/02484

Dear Requestor

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/02484**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 11th April. I note you seek access to the following information:

**I'd like to submit a Freedom of Information request in regards to kidnapping offences. Please could you provide the number of: -**

- 1) **Kidnappings recorded by your force in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?**
- 2) **Of these, how many were child kidnappings and abductions in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?**
- 3) **Of child kidnappings and abductions, how many were non-parental kidnappings and abductions in 2014, 2015, 2016, 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 completed by Bedfordshire Police and their crime recording databases please see our response in the tables below: -

1)

| Recorded Crimes_Kidnapping_01.01.2014 – 31.12.2018 |           |           |           |           |           |             |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Row Labels   | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      | 2018      | Grand Total |
| 03601 KIDNAPPING ETC                               | 13        | 11        | 17        | 19        | 12        | 72          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                 | <b>13</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>72</b>   |

2)

| Recorded Crimes_Kidnapping_01.01.2014 – 31.12.2018<br>VICTIM AGES – Under 18 |          |          |          |          |          |             |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| Row Labels   | 2014     | 2015     | 2016     | 2017     | 2018     | Grand Total |
| <b>Under 18</b>  | <b>1</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>17</b>   |

3)

| Recorded Crimes – Kidnapping -01.01.2014 – 31.12.2018<br>Non-Parental |           |           |           |           |          |             |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Row Labels  | 2014      | 2015      | 2016      | 2017      | 2018     | Grand Total |
| <b>03601 KIDNAPPING ETC</b>   | <b>13</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>61</b>   |

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