



Information Rights  
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14th November 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/06706

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/06706**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 21st October. I note you seek access to the following information:

**Please provide the following:**

- **The total number of crimes reported to the force within the following time periods - 1st Jan - 30th September 2019, Jan 1st - 31st Dec 2018 and Jan 1st - 31st Dec 2017**
- **The total number of crimes that were "screened out". Please provide the information for the following time periods - 1st Jan - 30th September 2019, Jan 1st - 31st Dec 2018 and Jan 1st - 31st Dec 2017**
- **I.e in the calendar year 2018 (Jan 1st - 31st Dec 2018), 429,000 incidents were reported and 2,000 incidents were screened out and no further action was taken**
- **May you please provide a breakdown of the types of crimes "screened out" i.e sexual assault, burglary. Please provide the information for the following time periods - 1st Jan - 30th September 2019, Jan 1st - 31st Dec 2018 and Jan 1st - 31st Dec 2017**
- **I.e in the calendar year 2018 (Jan 1st - 31st Dec 2018), 429,000 incidents were reported and 2,000 incidents were screened out and no further action was taken. Of the 2,000 incidents, 700 related to burglary, 300 related to fraud/ forgery, 200 related to criminal damage etc.**

**Definition for clarity**

- **"Screened out" - Crimes reported but no further action taken. Officers will carry out an initial routine exercise to find out basic information. This may include establishing what type of crime is being reported, whether there are any victims, and whether CCTV might be able to identify the criminal. Police then make a decision whether or not to launch a full investigation.**
- **Screened out crimes are where there is no evidence at the time in order to take the investigation further therefore the crime is screened out and will not have any further investigation unless other evidence comes to light.**

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 within the Force and our crime recording systems and in order for us to be able to retrieve all of the information with regards to crime types i.e. sexual offences, burglaries etc. This is not centrally recorded and will require a manual search and review of thousands of crime reports to establish its relevance to your request. As a result of this and subsequent processes it will take in excess of the 18 hour time limit to secure the data and therefore make this request over cost.

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.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Crimes Recorded</b>	<b>Screened Flag</b>
2008	47057	13069
2009	42745	7870
2010	43085	14512
2011	42356	16741
2012	36166	14253
2013	35515	10039
2014	39133	7390
2015	39812	14121
2016	42527	17150
2017	46309	18859
2018 (to 22/05/2018)	19428	8502

Bedfordshire Police are not able to provide screening data for the last 12 months as we cannot measure this on the crime system that Bedfordshire has been using since May 2018. This system also does not capture the date a crime is filed so we are also not able to identify the number of crimes filed within a day.

The historic data above is based on a "screened" 'tick box' on the Bedfordshire Police crime system that was in use until the 22nd May 2018.

The "screened" 'tick box' was only used for internal management of crime investigations. The criteria for the application of this recording may have now changed over the period the data has been requested. Following enquiries within the Force please see our response below.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

#### 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.