



Information Rights
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17th September 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/05348

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/05348

I write in connection with your request for information received on 19th August. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information. I am interested to find out how many 'sexting' cases involving young children were investigated by your force over the relevant period.

Please could you provide a breakdown of cases where the suspect is a child under the age of 14 for the following offences:

- **Take/ make/ distribute Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo-Photographs Of Children;**
- **Possession of indecent photo or pseudo images of a child;**
- **Possessing prohibited images of children.**

For each case, please provide the age of the suspect, the offence type (including any additional detail on the incident) and also the outcome of the case (e.g. police caution or Outcome 21).

Please provide this data for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 up to 19 August 2019.

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 within the Force please see our response on the tables below. For your information due to the low numbers of suspects under 10 years of age I have grouped these together to avoid having to implement a Section 40 exemption.

Recorded Crime: Offender Aged under 14 - 01.01.2017 - 22.05.2018			
OUTCOME/OFFENCE/OFFENDER AGE	2017	2018	Grand Total
UNSOLVED	33	20	53
Possessing Prohibited Images Of Children	1		1
13	1		1
Possession Of An Indecent Or Pseudo Photograph Of A Child	1		1
13	1		1
Take/ Make/Distribute Indecent Photographs Or Pseudo Photographs Of Children.	31	20	51
Under 10's	5		5
11	2	2	4
12	13	7	20
13	11	11	22
Grand Total	33	20	53

Source: CMS

Recorded Crime: Offender Aged under 14 - 23.05.2018 - 19.08.2019			
OUTCOME/OFFENCE/OFFENDER AGE	2018	2019	Grand Total
UNSOLVED	24	67	91
086/02 - Take or to make or to distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children	24	66	90
Under 10's	4	6	10
11	1	8	9
12	6	14	20
13	13	38	51
086/10 - Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child		1	1
13		1	1
Grand Total	24	67	91

Source: Athena

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

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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.