



Information Rights
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15th January 2020

Our Ref: FOI2019/07681

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/07681

I write in connection with your request for information received on 5th December. I note you seek access to the following information:

Question 1: - 1a) How many crimes were recorded in your area to date in 2019? Please provide a breakdown for each neighbourhood in your area.

1b) Of these recorded crimes, how many were reported to have taken place on or within a five-mile radius of Traveller sites located in your area? Please specify the specific Traveller sites concerned. If you are not able to provide figures for the five mile radius, please provide the number and breakdown of crimes which are recorded as relating to those Traveller sites.

I am aware that you do not record "Traveller" or "Gypsy" as an ethnicity category applied to an accused person of crime, but I am aware that your command and control systems can search for the name and/or location of Traveller sites and the associated recorded crimes either taking place on that site or involving occupants of that site.

Please set out your responses to questions 1a) and 1b) by crime type. Please also answer the above for 2017 and 2018.

Question 2: -

2a) How many complaints of incidents were logged in your area to date in 2019? Please provide a breakdown for each neighbourhood in your area.

2b) Of these complaints of incidents, how many were reported to have taken place on or within a five-mile radius of Traveller sites located in your area?

Please specify the specific Traveller sites concerned. If you are not able to provide figures for the five mile radius, please provide the number and breakdown of incidents which are recorded as relating to those Traveller sites. I am aware that you do not record "Traveller" or "Gypsy" as an ethnicity category applied to an accused person of crime, but I am aware that your command and control systems can search for the name and/or location of Traveller sites and the associated complaints of incidents either taking place on that site or believed to involve occupants of that site.

Please set out your responses to questions 2a) and 2b) by incident type. Please also answer the above for 2017 and 2018.

Question 3: -

3a) How many police operations have you undertaken at Traveller sites located in your area to date in 2019? Please give the name of the sites involved in these operations.

3b) Please provide the cost of the operations identified at 3a) above.

Please also answer the above for 2017 and 2018.

Question 4: -

4a) Please provide your total everyday policing costs to date in 2019?

4b) Of these costs, what is the cost attributable to police activities (for example, police callouts, patrols and site attendance) directly related to the Traveller sites in your area?

Please also answer the above for 2017 and 2018. For all of the questions above: - 'Your area' refers to the area for which your police force has jurisdiction. 'Traveller sites' refers to sites occupied by Gypsies and Travellers. It includes authorised sites (whether publicly or privately owned), as well as unauthorised sites on both traveller-owned land (also known as unauthorised developments) and land owned by others (also known as unauthorised encampments).

If possible, I would like the information on an excel spreadsheet.

If it is not possible to provide all the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12 of the Act, please prioritise responses to questions 1 and 2.

If some or all of the information requested is in the public domain, I would be grateful if you could direct me to the link online or attach this information in your response.

CLARIFICATION REQUESTED: -

Bedfordshire Police do not centrally record crimes & locations under 'Traveller / Gypsy' sites etc. In order to try and avoid your request being over cost please provide the full addresses / locations of the 'Traveller sites' you are referring to.

CLARIFICATION REC'D: -

Kempston Hardwick, Ampthill Road, Bedford MK45 3NJ
Willow Drift, Meadow Lane, Bedford MK44 3SB
Chiltern View, Northall Road, Eaton Bray, Dunstable LU6 2RR
Potton Traveller Site, Common Road, Potton, Sandy, Beds SG19 2RY
Timberlands, Halfmoon Lane, Pepperstock LU1 4NB
Woodlands, Biggleswade, SG18 9NH
Old cartwheel Nurseries, A1 Sandy, Great North Road, Sandy SG19 2AG
Talamanca Gypsy Site 63 Great North Road, Sandy SG19 2AG
Little Acre, Langford Road, Biggleswade SG18 9JU
Maggie Farm Hill Lane, Upper Caldecote BEDS SG18 9DP
145 Chapel End Road, Houghton Conquest, Houghton Conquest, Bedford MK45 3LT
Twin Acres, Hitchin Rd, Arlesey SG15 6RP
Woodside Caravan Park, Thorncote Road, Hatch, Sandy SG19 1PT
Land at 197 Hitchin Road, Arlesey SG15 6SE
North Star Cottage, Watling St, Hockliffe, Leighton Buzzard LU7 9PY
28 & 30 Stanbridge Road; Ash Tree Paddock; The Stables Sites A and C*

*all share the same address Stanbridge Rd, Leighton Buzzard LU7 9JH
Toddbury Farm; The Stables; Greenacres*

*all share the same address, Gypsy Lane, Little Billington LU7 9BP
Little Acre, Half Moon Lane, Half Moon Ln, Pepperstock, Luton LU1 4LL
Greenvale and Eversholt Beeches, Watling Street, Caddington LU6 3QP
Old Acres, Old Acre Paddock, Barton Road, Pulloxhill MK45 5HP
Chestnut Caravan Park, Steppingley Road, Tingrith MK17 9FG
Hermitage Lane, Off Westoning Road, Greenfield MK45 5BH
Land adjacent to 17 The Causeway Clophill, Bedford MK45 4BA
Evergreens and Home Form, Dunstable Road, Tilsworth, Leighton Buzzard LU7 9PU
Gogs Farm, Old Linslade Road, Linslade LU7 0DU
Land at Junction of Bridleway and Luton Road, Fancott LU5 6HT
Land off Mill Lane Biggleswade SG18 8AZ
21 Sun Street Biggleswade SG18 0BP
Bridge Meadow, Leighton Buzzard 14-18 Bridge St, Leighton Buzzard LU7 1AL
Hawthorne LU5 5QN
Greenacre Farm Billington Road, Stanbridge LU7 9HL
St Thomas's Road St Thomas's Road, Luton, LU2 7UD
14 Wigmore Lane LU2 8AD
77 Wigmore Lane LU2 8AB

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 with regards to your extensive and complex request above. Some of the requested information is not centrally recorded and in order for us to be able to retrieve all of the information will require a manual search and review of thousands of incident and 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.

Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police please see our response on the document attached and marked as **Annex A – FOI2019 007681**.

3a -

2017 – No operations

2018 – 1 operation at Willow Drift Site

2019 – 1 operation at Potton Site and 1 operation at Greenacres.

3b – Bedfordshire Police do not centrally record the costings for each operation.

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.