



Information Rights
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9th January 2020

Our Ref: FOI2019/07745

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/07745

I write in connection with your request for information received on 10th December. I note you seek access to the following information:

I would be grateful if you provide the following information relating to the use of police custody by your police force.

For each of the individual 12 months from April 2018 to March 2019 inclusive:

- 1. The total number of authorised detentions of adult suspects (aged 18 or over)**
- 2. The total number of authorised detentions of adult suspects (aged 18 or over) in which the need for an appropriate adult (under PACE Code C) was recorded.**

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 custody recording systems within the Force please see our response below.

- 1. The total number of authorised detentions of adult suspects (aged 18 or over)**

Month	No of custody records
May 18	204
Jun 18	614
Jul 18	685
Aug 18	663
Sep 18	654
Oct 18	614
Nov 18	683
Dec 18	701
Jan 19	730
Feb 19	615
Mar 19	674
Grand Total	6837

- 2. The total number of authorised detentions of adult suspects (aged 18 or over) in which the need for an appropriate adult (under PACE Code C) was recorded.**

Month	No of custody records
May 18	8
Jun 18	17
Jul 18	10
Aug 18	17
Sep 18	15
Oct 18	26
Nov 18	17
Dec 18	18
Jan 19	14
Feb 19	11
Mar 19	13
Grand Total	166

Please note that this data only refers to the first assessment of the detainee during their 1st period of detention. It does not include records where the original assessment that no Appropriate Adult is required is subsequently amended and to try and secure this data would take over the 18 hour time limit and make the request over cost.

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.