



Information Rights  
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3rd February 2020

Our Ref: FOI2020/00140

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2020/00140**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 6th January. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) **How many dogs did your Police force receive reports for as stolen in 2019?**
- 2) **For those dogs reported as stolen in 2019, what breeds were they in each case?**
- 3) **For those dogs reported as stolen in 2019, where were the dogs when they were taken? E.g. from the home, garden etc.**
- 4) **For those dogs reported as stolen in 2019, how many dogs were later recovered and returned to owner?**

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 in the table below: -

No.	Committed Date	Theft Location	Type of DOG	Recovered	Theft Circumstances
1	25/01/2019	Amphill	Cairn Terrier	N	Day light theft on building site from back of IP's van.
2	07/04/2019	Toddington	Akita	N	Day light theft from residential garden.
3	26/07/2019	Lidlington	4 x u/k	Possibly 2 X dogs recovered.	Night Time theft from residential - outside kennels.
4	04/08/2019	Houghton Regis	Lurcher / Bulldog Cross	N	Day Light theft from residential home - Fraud.
5	14/08/2019	Wyboston	French Bulldog	N	Day Light residential house.
6	20/09/2019	Luton	German Shephard	N	Early Morning theft from residential garden.
7	19/08/2019	Luton	u/k	N	Day light residential house.
8	17/09/2019	Bedford	Staffordshire Bull-dog Cross	N	Daylight residential flat.
9	05/07/2019	Dunstable	Chihuahua	N	Daytime house burglarly
10	19/07/2019	Bedford	French Bulldog	Y	House theft daytime
11	22/11/2020	Luton	2 x German spitz	N	Daytime theft from car
12	23/11/2020	Luton	2 x Husky	Y	Daytime garden

13	28/11/2020	Bedford	u/k	Y	House theft daytime
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Any further information held by Bedfordshire Police is exempt under the following exemptions: -

**Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities**

Section 30 Investigations - The Section 30 exemption is a class based qualified exemption. This means that the legislators when writing the legislation considered that the release of such information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 would cause harm to the public authority or individual concerned. There is therefore no requirement to carry out a HARM Test in respect of such information. However there is a requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test in order to establish whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption may be outweighed by a wider public benefit in disclosure.

**Public Interest Test**

*S30 - Factors favouring confirming that information is held:*

Providing information relevant to this request would lead to a better informed public, improving their knowledge and understanding of how the Police service respond and deal with such types of investigation. Public confidence would be maintained and the public may be encouraged to assist more readily with such investigations.

*S30 - Factors against confirming or denying that information is held:*

Any information generated by an investigation, particularly in some circumstances needs to be treated with sensitivity. In some cases providing information which could disclose facts which would prejudice the evidence gathering within an investigation. In addition, the police service would not disclose information which could identify ongoing investigative activity, and subsequently undermine those processes. Anything which would jeopardise future court proceedings would not be disclosed prior by Bedfordshire Police, as to do so would undermine police investigations and hinder the prevention and detection of crime. It would not therefore be in the public interest to reveal that such investigations are being undertaken.

**Balance Test**

The strongest reason favouring disclosure is the public interest in disclosing information that would provide the public awareness of action taken by Bedfordshire Police, which would increase transparency and accountability.

The strongest reason favouring non-disclosure is the significance and sensitivity of the requested information as it relates to ongoing investigations and may identify victims of crime, which may interfere with the course of justice and any subsequent court procedure and potential links to other investigations and the wider law enforcement.

On weighing up the competing interests, the public interest favours non-disclosure of the requested information. This decision is based on the understanding that the public interest is not what interests the public but what is considered to be an appropriate disclosure in the circumstances.

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

**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.