



Information Rights  
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4th February 2020

Our Ref: FOI2020/00147

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2020/00147**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 7th January. I note you seek access to the following information:

**Please provide the number of "hare coursing" incidents or crimes your Wildlife Crime Unit have been made aware of, or have investigated in the last 3 years starting from January 1st 2017 to as close to today's date as possible.**

**This should be hare coursing offences contrary to part 1 section 5 of the Hunting Act 2004. If you have not recorded 'hare coursing' in your system, then any information in relation to figures from your Wildlife Crime Unit would be helpful.**

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 incident and crime recording systems within the Force please see our response on the tables below: -

INCIDENTS : STORM	YEAR			
Incident Type	2017	2018	2019	Grand Total
Deer Hunting	5	6	4	15
Fox Hunting	6	4	7	17
Hare Coursing	149	157	61	367

CUSTODY pre Athena	YEAR		
Incident Type	2017	2018	Grand Total
Hare Coursing	0	0	0
Grand Total	0	0	0

CUSTODY post Athena	YEAR	
TYPE	2019	Grand Total
Hare Coursing	2	2
Grand Total	2	2

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

#### 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.