



Information Rights
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20th February 2020

Our Ref: FOI2020/00596

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2020/00596

I write in connection with your request for information received on 24th January. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please may I request the following information: How many cases of stalking were recorded by your police force

- a) 1st January 2018 – 31st December 2018
- b) 1st January 2019 – 31st December 2019 Of these cases,

how many of the named suspects had previously been named in reports of stalking against:

- 1) the same victim
- 2) multiple victims From the cases identified above how many victims were repeat victims of stalking (please provide your definition of repeat victims)?

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 below: -

Recorded Crime: Stalking 01.01.2018 - 22.05.2018	
Offence	2018
00865 STALKING	1
00866 STALKING	19
19512 STALKING	7
Grand Total	27

Recorded Crime: Stalking 23.05.2018 - 31.12.2019			
Offence	2018	2019	Grand Total
008/65 - Harassment - Stalking involving fear of violence	15	33	48
008/66 - Harassment - Stalking involving serious alarm/distress	30	71	101
195/12 - Attempted - Harassment - Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	1		1
195/12 - Harassment - Pursue course of conduct in breach of Sec 1 (1) which amounts to stalking	36	39	75
Grand Total	82	143	225

- 1) 7 repeats (This is where the Offender name is repeated and the Victim name is repeated)
- 2) Definition – where the victim has been a victim of crime more than once in the past 12 months.

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.