



Information Rights
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
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16th June 2020

Our Ref: FOI2020/02840

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2020/02840

I write in connection with your request for information received on 19th May. I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to know how many offences have been recorded where an individual was spat or coughed at, during the following three periods of time?

- 1. Monday 25th March 2019 - Sunday 19th May 2019**
- 2. Monday 27th January 2020 - Sunday 22nd March 2020**
- 3. Monday 23rd March 2020 - Sunday 17th May 2020**

If possible, please break down the data to include following details (if you are unable to provide any of the following due to time or cost constraints please proceed with whatever information you can provide.)

- The date and location of the assault.**
- Whether the victim was a police officer or emergency services worker.**
- Whether also included in the attack was a 'direct threat' of Covid-19 (this is obviously only relevant in the second two time periods.)**
- Whether there was an arrest and charge and if so, the age and sex of the person(s) involved.**

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 and Performance Team within the Force please see our response on the documents attached and marked as **Annex A – FOI2020 02840 and Annex B – FOI2020 02840.**

Bedfordshire Police can confirm that it holds information in relation to your request however, I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested. Such information is exempt under the following exemption: -

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

The Section 40 exemption is a class based absolute exemption - This means that the legislators have identified that there would be harm in disclosure and there is no need to evidence this or carry out a public interest test.

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.