



Information Rights
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23rd June 2020

Our Ref: FOI2020/03007

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2020/03007

I write in connection with your request for information received on 29th May. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please send me:

- The (i) number of times police have used Stop and Search measures since the UK lockdown was introduced on 23rd March 2020 and (ii) the number of times police had used Stop and Search measures from 23rd March 2019 to 22nd March 2020.
- Out of the total number of times Stop and Search measures have been used by police since the UK lockdown was introduced on 23rd March 2020, the number that were used on black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) individuals.
- Out of the total number of times Stop and Search measures have been used by police between 23rd March 2019 and 22nd March 2020, the number of Stop and Search measures used by police on black, Asian, and minority ethnic (BAME) individuals.

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 within the Force please see our response in the tables below: -

Stop and Search							
Dates between: 23.03.2020 - 31.05.2020							
Month-YEAR / Ethnicity	Criminal Damage	Drugs	Firearms	Going Equipped	Offensive Weapons	Stolen Property	Grand Total
Mar-2020		66		7	14	5	92
Asian		10			4		14
Black		7					7
Mixed		2		1			3
Not Stated		22			6	1	29
White		25		6	4	4	39
Apr-2020	3	313		34	28	18	396
Asian		59		3	3	1	66
Black		29		3	7		39
Mixed		15		3	3		21
Not Stated	2	70		7	5	2	86
Other		1					1
White	1	139		18	10	15	183
May-2020	4	387	1	34	29	18	473
Asian	1	87		2	5	2	97
Black		28		3	2		33
Mixed		13		2	1	1	17
Not Stated		121	1	8	5	2	137
Other		2		1			3
White	3	136		18	16	13	186

Grand Total	7	766	1	75	71	41	961
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Stop and Search							
Dates between: 23.03.2019 - 22.03.2020							
Year / Month	Asian	Black	Mixed	Not Stated	Other	White	Grand Total
2019	269	151	122	538	7	894	1981
May	10	12	5	28		45	100
Jun	39	16	9	43	2	120	229
Jul	30	25	17	56	2	112	242
Aug	28	16	24	92		122	282
Sep	42	24	18	85	1	109	279
Oct	55	22	20	83	1	124	305
Nov	27	21	18	72		122	260
Dec	38	15	11	79	1	140	284
2020	153	83	42	215	7	372	872
Jan	77	30	13	81	3	174	378
Feb	54	41	18	86	1	99	299
Mar	22	12	11	48	3	99	195
Grand Total	422	234	164	753	14	1266	2853

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.

FYI - Facts and figures pertaining to Stop and Search are published annually (April to March) at a national level via the GOV.UK website. The force level data can be found within the Open Data tables at the Police Powers and Procedures page.

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.