

22nd February 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20180180

REQUEST

Please can I request the following information:

A database extract of all shoplifting incidents in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 to include:

2. Those charged with a shoplifting offence and the theft value for each charge in each of the following years: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017.

RESPONSE

I approached our Data Returns Officer and Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards) For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

CMS data –

I have included a count of offences recorded under Home Office offence class 46 – Shoplifting where the offence was recorded on the CMS crime register between 01-Jan-2013 and 04-Dec-2017. Of the offence count, if the offence outcome was a CHARGE, then I have included the total Property value for each offence.

CONNECT data -

I have included a count of offences recorded under Home Office offence class 46 – Shoplifting where the offence was recorded on the CONNECT between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2017. Of the offence count, if the offence outcome was a CHARGE, then I have included the total Property value for each offence. (Please note – not all offences have been recorded with a stolen property value and therefore are omitted)

I have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS. SYP have changed their central crime management system in 05 December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded.