

1 February 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180036

REQUEST

1. How many reported crimes were committed against rough sleepers/people of no fixed abode/homeless people in each of the past five years?
2. Please provide a breakdown of the reported crimes committed against rough sleepers/people of no fixed abode/homeless people in each of the past five years
3. How many rough sleepers/people of no fixed abode/homeless people were arrested in each of the past three years?
4. Please provide a breakdown of reasons for arrests of rough sleepers/people of no fixed abode/homeless people in each of the past three years

RESPONSE

The information you are seeking is held on separate systems:

- 1) Crime Management Systems which is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.
- 2) Custody Handling System which records all arrests which may or may not result in a charge

I approached our Crime Management Systems Analyst for assistance with questions 1 and 2 of your request. She conducted a search of our 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 this date onwards. Due to difficulties with the way in which the data is extracted, data from our new CONNECT system is currently presented separately.

Using the criteria above our Crime Analyst has provided the enclosed data and the following explanation:

I have included a count of offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2013 and 04-Dec-2017 where victim's home address House Name is NO FIXED ABODE OR NFA.

Please note: This does not necessarily mean the Victim was 'Homeless' at the time of the offence was committed therefore the circumstances of the each offence would need to be reviewed to establish if relevant to the request and to possibly identify if the victim was Homeless at the time of the offence,

Due to the numbers involved, it is not possible to review the circumstances of each crime – this would exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

In addition to the above - there is no mandated field to record if the victim is "homeless" therefore the above search methods may not accurately identify what is potentially recorded on CMS(ii).

Please note some offence may have been recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules – General Rules – The Principal Crime rule -

- ***IF THE SEQUENCE OF CRIMES IN AN INCIDENT, OR A COMPLEX CRIME, CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF CRIME, THEN COUNT THE MOST SERIOUS CRIME.***

I approached our Custody Handling System (CHS) Analyst for assistance with questions 3 and 4 of your request. This system records details relating to arrests and detainees held in custody. She conducted a search of the system using the criteria above and provided me with the raw data from which the enclosed Arrest Data spreadsheet has been compiled.

Please note, as with the Crime Data, there is no specific search category for 'homeless', this data is therefore based on street/area including variations of NFA/Unknown / Not known. As with the crime data we confirm whether any detainees or victims of were actually rough sleepers or any other description of homeless.