

6 March 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180250

REFINED REQUEST

I would like information about how many recorded crimes involving a firearm in Sheffield over the last decade. If possible, please could you break this down by calendar year from 2007-2017, and also by type of offence and which area or postcode the offence was recorded in (e.g. Burngreave, Pitsmoor, city centre). Please could you also provide details of the offender's age where they are under 18 (e.g. 15 years old, 16 years old, 17 years old, 18+).

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Systems Analyst for assistance with 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.

Each of these systems record complaints or allegations of those matters which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes' and using the criteria above our Crime Analyst has provided the enclosed data and the following explanation:

CMS(ii) DATA –

OFFENCE COUNT - I have searched CMS(ii) for offences recorded on the Crime Register between 01-Jan-2007 and 04-Dec-2017, where weapon type is defined as a FIREARM has been recorded with either the USED or POSSESSED flag, broken down by Year the offence was recorded and the Home Office Offence class.

AREA - Of this count, I have also included a breakdown of the Home Office offence class and the Scene of Crime area.

WEAPON TYPE \ USAGE - Of this count, I have also included a breakdown of the weapon type & usage.

Please note – more than one weapon type may be recorded on some offences type, therefore we expect a count of weapons to exceed a count of offences. For the purpose of this request, I have searched for offences where a " has been recorded with the USED or POSSESSED flag, however other weapon types may be recorded on the same crime report in addition to the FIREARM.

OFFENDER UNDER 18 – of the offence count, I have included a breakdown of the offender's age and outcome, if the offender was under the age of 18 at the time the offence was committed.

The Home Office changed the approach to reviewing outcomes of crimes implemented in South Yorkshire in July 2014, and now a broader framework is now in place. A crime which would have previously been closed as 'undetected' is now given a specific outcome based on the specific circumstances of that crime.

In addition, the outcomes CHARGED, SUMMONS and CAUTIONS changed in 2017 and we now specifically record for what offence, the offender was charged i.e. CHARGED is now recorded as either CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED Or CHARGED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE, therefore the outcomes are applicable depending on the year recorded the offence was recorded.

Please note - Offences are recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting rules and dependant on the individual circumstances of each offence, the Principal crime rule may have been applied in some cases. The only way to establish the full circumstances of offence, would be to review the circumstances of offence text for every crime recorded.

C *The Principal Crime Rule (1 of 1)*

- **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.**
(NB: as it states in Section E, these incidents must involve the same offender and victim.)

CONNECT DATA –

I have provided a count of offences recorded on the CONNECT system between 05-Dec-2017 – 31-Dec-2017 where the BCU Desc is Sheffield and where an offence was recorded with the MO DESC1 'Instrument used' or 'MO DESC3 'Firearm'. 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(ii).

Of the above, I have provided a breakdown

SYP have changed their central crime management system in 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. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.

*Please note that the data provided is **not** in line with the ADR 131 Firearms return which is required by the Home Office every quarter. This request is for '**recorded crimes involving a firearm in Sheffield**' and as a result **all** offences involving a 'firearm' were included i.e. not specific circumstances of offence in line with the Home office requirement.*