

26th October 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20181842

REQUEST

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information regarding the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014, from 2015-18.

If this information is already publicly available or you might be able to guide me to another information source, any advice would be gladly received.

1. Please provide the number of dispersals excluding an individual(s) from a public area, issued by your police force under section 35 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014 for the financial years 2015-16 – 2017-18.

2. Of these dispersals, please provide the number of individuals who:

- a. Were dispersed for begging related anti-social behaviour*
- b. Were dispersed for begging related anti-social behaviour and were listed as having 'No Fixed Address'*
- c. Were listed as having 'No Fixed Address'*

3. Of these dispersals who were listed as 'No Fixed Address', please provide the number of individuals who:

- a. Were subsequently charged with an offence for breaching the PSPO*
- b. Were issued a fine for begging related anti-social behaviour and where possible please provide the cost of each fine given*

RESPONSE

I initially approached all four Districts within South Yorkshire Police force area for assistance with your request. I have been provided with the below to answer your request. A sergeant within our Sheffield District has provided the below figures and explanation for the whole of the force area.

Financial Year 2015/16 (06/04/15 to 05/04/16)

1. The total number of disposals over the financial year were **371**.
- 2 a. From this total, **11** of the disposals were begging related.
- 2 b. From the 11 listed above, **7** of these were listed as being NFA.
- 2.c The total number of NFA 's from the total sum figure of 371 was **15**.

Financial Year 2017/18 (06/04/17 to 05/04/18)

1. The total number of disposals over the financial year were **326**.
- 2 a. From this total, **21** of the disposals were begging related.
- 2 b. From the over figure, **15** of these were listed as being NFA.
- 2 c. The total number of NFA's from the total sum of 326 was **22**.

He pointed out that for Q3 these are council lead initiatives so the appropriate Council for each district would need to be contacted.

In the case of Sheffield City Council he has explained the following:

Q 3 is best answered by Sheffield City council for the following reasons: A PSPO (Public Space Protection Order), forms part of the powers given to the council for them to tackle ASB related issues. This would be Sheffield City Council lead initiative. This leads me to question 3b. Again Sheffield City Council are responsible for the issuing of fines to people who are begging and causing ASB. I have spoken to the city centre SYP team who cover this area of Policing on a daily basis and I have been informed that SYP staff have not issued any fines to beggars in Sheffield City centre, this would be a council lead initiative.

Further information from our Doncaster district in regards to Q3:

all PSPO breaches are a fine that is the only sentencing option. Most cases are brought by DMBC and not SYP.