

19th December 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20181824

REQUEST

- 1. How many people have been proceeded against with possession (just possession, not possession with intent to supply) of cannabis over the past five calendar years? -**
- 2. Can this figure be broken down by year?**
- 3. Can you break this information down by outcome?**

CLARIFICATION

Please could you clarify the following point(s): -

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/cannabis-possession-ref-20180350/>

The data you require can be found on the Crime Tab – Q1 & 2. The other tabs contain other data that may be useful to your research.

FROM THE REQUESTER

Apologies for the delay in coming back to you. Unfortunately the data provided here is broken down by financial year, not by calendar year as per my initial request.

Can I please obtain the figures by calendar year instead? That is 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, as opposed to 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017.

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns 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'.

They 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. The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

Unfortunately currently, we are unable to retrieve Offender data from the Connect System. Performance Management Unit has taken the decision that we are unable to provide data regarding suspects i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues. However, we can provide the offence outcomes.

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

Please find attached the completed FOI 2018_1824

Both CMS and CONNECT was used to extract the data.

CMS data has been extracted using the HO offence code 92E – Possession of Cannabis

*CONNECT data has been extracted using the HO offence class of ‘Possess of Control
Drugs (Cannabis)’*

CMS data has been extracted using Accused and Suspect and the outcomes for each.

*Due to the data quality issues in CONNECT – only the volume of offences has been
extracted NOT the volume of offenders and cannot be combined or used in comparison.*