6th March 2019

<u>Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20190132</u>

<u>REQUEST</u>

I would like to make a Freedom of Information request on the following:

1. *Between 1st Jan 2017 and 31st December 2018 (or the nearest available period) - how many criminal offences were recorded in betting shops in your region? (Betting shop names, if required, are: William Hill, Coral, Paddy Power, Ladbrokes & Betfred)*
2. *Between 1st Jan 2017 and 31st December 2018 (or the nearest available period) - how many times did the police recommend to local authorities revoking licenses from betting shops owing to criminal activity?*
3. *Between 1st Jan 2017 and 31st December 2018 (or the nearest available period) - does the police force have estimates on the number of offences which went unreported in betting shops in your region?*

Please can the statistics be broken down by year.

<u>CLARIFICATION</u>

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

2. This is likely to exceed the 18hr time limit, as every recorded Criminal Offence relating to a betting shops would have to be reviewed to see if officers contacted the local authority in regards to the license.
3.The question as it stands warrants a yes / no answer. FOI concerns recorded information, so unless the estimate to your specific question is already recorded, we would not be able to respond to this. Please also note that we are not obliged to create information for the purposes of answering a request.

<u>RESPONSE</u>

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 '<u>crimes</u>'.

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. 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.

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

Please see the attached.

CMS(ii) Data – I have included a count of offences recorded on the CMS(Ii) Crime Register between 01-Jan-2017 and 04-Dec-2017 where the Crime Scene Premises Type is BOOKMAKER / BETTING SHOP. Of this count, I have included a breakdown of the Crime Scene House name free text field, because the data is free text, there may be spelling variations\errors.

CONNECT Data - I have included a count of offences recorded on the CONNECT for crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2018 where the Premises Type is BETTING OFFICE or the MO Desc 3 is BETTING SHOP - BOOK MAKERS, TURF ACCOUNTANTS . Of this count, I have included a breakdown of the premise name free text field, because the data is free text, there may be spelling variations\errors.

Only 14 offences were returned for CONNECT, this data is reliant on the Premises type or MO Desc being recorded as above. However, these fields are not mandated with CONNECT therefore this may not potentially identify such circumstances of offences.