

25th September 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20191875

REQUEST

I'm writing to you to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to your force area;

1. *The number of reported incidents involving the theft of cryptocurrencies (such as Bitcoin, Ethereum etc.) in the financial years;*
2018/19
2017/18
2016/17
2015/16
2014/15
2. *The number of investigations conducted by the force in relation to the theft of cryptocurrencies (such as Bitcoin, Ethereum etc.) in the financial years;*
2018/19
2017/18
2016/17
2015/16
2014/15
3. *The number of charges raised which involved the theft of cryptocurrencies (such as Bitcoin, Ethereum etc.) in the financial years;*
2018/19
2017/18
2016/17
2015/16
2014/15
4. *Could you please provide an itemised list of all recorded incidents involving the theft of cryptocurrencies, stating in each case the alleged amount or value taken and the cryptocurrency concerned, for the financial years;*
2018/19
2017/18
2016/17
2015/16
2014/15

CLARIFICATION

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

I have contacted our Performance & Governance Unit for assistance with your request. They have asked the following:

Neither or our Crime Recording Systems hold property types of **cryptocurrencies (such as Bitcoin, Ethereum etc.)** Therefore, I can only search the circumstances of offence free text field within CMS(II) and the Initial MO free text field within CONNECT, however searching free text fields may not accurately identify what is potentially recorded on the crime systems.

In addition we cannot search all free text fields within CONNECT (including the Investigation Summary), only the Initial MO.

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'.

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 the following explanation of her search criteria:

Please find attached completed FOI and below explanation.

CMS Data –

I have provided all crimes recorded on CMS(ii) crime register where the circumstances of offence text mentions either BITCOIN or ETHEREUM. Each offence will need to be reviewed in order to establish if relevant to the request.

I have also provided the outcome of the offence to assist with question 3.

Statistics date between 01-APR-2014 and 04-DEC-2017.

CONNECT Data -

I have provided all crimes recorded on CONNECT crime where the Initial MO text mentions either BITCOIN or ETHEREUM. Each offence will need to be reviewed in order to establish if relevant to the request.

I have also provided the outcome of the offence to assist with question 3.

Incident Created Date between 05-DEC-2017 and 31-MAR-2019.

If have checked each returned record and none fit the criteria of your request of "theft of cryptocurrencies"

Our Response is one of "No Information Held"