

13th November 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202224
REQUEST

1 The number of suspected cannabis growing operations/farms reported to or discovered by SYP in South Yorkshire by month from January 2017 to September 2020.

2 The same figure but for Rotherham district.

3 The number of suspected cannabis growing operations/farms of more than 100 plants reported to or discovered by SYP in South Yorkshire by month from January 2017 to September 2020 (or by year from September 2018 to September 2020 if monthly figures not available).

4 The same figure for Rotherham.

5 The number of suspected arrested for cannabis production over this period – both Rotherham and South Yorkshire.

6 The number of successful prosecutions for cannabis production over this period – both Rotherham and South Yorkshire.

7 The number of investigations abandoned or discontinued by SYP – both Rotherham and South Yorkshire – due to failure to identify a suspect.

8 The total estimated value of cannabis seized in Rotherham/South Yorkshire year from 2017 to September 2020.

9 The total estimated value of drugs separated by type – cocaine, heroine, etc - seized in Rotherham/South Yorkshire year from January 2017 to September 2020.

10 The total number of arrests for drug offences by month from January 2017 to September 2020.

11 The total number of convictions for drug offences by month from January 2017 to September 2020.

CLARIFICATION

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

I have contacted a number of departments to answer your request and they have asked me to clarify the following points. Can you please clarify how you would like us to proceed with each set of questions.

Q1,2, and Q7 From the Crime Management System. A count of the offences Attempted - Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B – Cannabis and

Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis , I can also provide a break down by District.#

Would this be suitable?

Q3, 4 8 and 9 – some of this detail is held on our the Drug Seizure System , the administrator has provided the following notes for you to check if this is suitable?

- *I am unable to get this information for value, but can supply the data available as amount seized (grams/wraps/plants/doses/ml) for each drug type.*
- *Data is available by month, and by drug type, using the annual data returns sent to the Home Office.*
- *Data for May-Sept 2020 has not yet been verified. Data is available Sept 2017-April 2020.*
- *Division/location is not a reliable data field from the Drug Seizure system, but data can be provided for South Yorkshire Police as a Force total.*
- *Data will be a count of logged seizures or total amount seized where applicable, I am unable to provide counts of reports or discoveries.*
- *Request clarification on the drug types requested for part 9. Just cocaine and heroin, or all drug types, or a set list? All data can be provided for all substances and the requestor can aggregate them.*

Q5 and Q10 – Location of arrest is only recorded in a free text field and cannot be used for reporting on. Detail is dependent upon inputting, correct spelling and district name being added rather than just area or road name.

We can supply data by the Arresting officers unit if that would be useful but it should be noted an officer may arrest all over the force area and not just there district. Would this be suitable?

Also

Q6 and Q11 - Prosecution / Conviction data (outcomes at court) is not recorded by South Yorkshire Police, this information may be available from the Ministry of Justice. You may want to approach the CPS directly regarding this enquiry: <https://www.cps.gov.uk/freedom-information>

FROM THE REQUESTER

Please see replies to your specific questions in bold and underlined below.

Q1,2, and Q7

Yes this would be acceptable. Does each offence relate to one scene/farm?

Q3, 4 8 and 9

Amount seized would be acceptable.

Figures for dates available would be useful, even if these only go up to April 2020.

Is it possible to amend the timescale to April 2017 to April 2020?

South Yorkshire figures are acceptable where district figures are not available.

Count of logged seizures or total amount seized is acceptable where relevant.

Re question 9 - yes please to all drug types seized and identified.

Q5 and Q10

Arresting officers' unit will suffice in place of more detailed information.

RESPONSE

Q1,Q2 & Q7 -

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The 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)

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

Please see the below explanation of her search and the data on the attached spreadsheet:

Please see the attached data.

I have provided a count of the offences Attempted - Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B – Cannabis and Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B - Cannabis where the offence was recorded for CONNECT Crime between 04-Dec-2017 and 30-Sep-2020 with a break down by District and Offence outcome.

Q3,4,8 & 9-

Please see attached data for Qs 3, 8 and 9.

To reiterate from the emails below:

- Data has been gathered from ADR351 Drug Seizures 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, and included all substances seized.*
- The time period included is April 2017 to March 2020 inclusive.*
- This is for South Yorkshire, not a specific division/district or area.*
- Quantities are not cash values, but amounts specified in the data tables (e.g. Kg, ml, wraps, doses, tablets).*
- A separate count for cannabis plant seizures where more than 100 plants have been seized is also provided.*

Q5 & Q10-

I approached the Custody Administrator for assistance with your request. He has provided the following explanation and data on the attached spreadsheet:

.. the location of arrest is only recorded in a free text field so cannot be used with any confidence for reporting on. Instead I have used the Arresting Officers' Unit at Arrest. This will not give exact results because officers make arrests all over the force area, not just in their own district;

So here are some figures, with the following caveats:

- *Data is from 05/12/2017 – CONNECT Go-Live.*
- *Location is based on the Arresting Officers' District at time of arrest, not the actual location of the arrest.*
- *Other drug related offences includes driving offences where intoxication through drugs is a factor.*