

9 May 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180638

REQUEST

1. Please provide the number of arrests made under the Psychoactive Substances Act since May 2016, broken down by month and by the offence suspected of being committed. This information should be available by conducting a search of the NSPIS for CJS codes that begin with 'PS160'.
2. Please also provide the number of these arrests where nitrous oxide was the substance in question. This information should be available by searching the above records for the following terms:

Laughing gas
Nitrous oxide
NOS
NO2
Canisters
Gas canisters
Balloons

RESPONSE

The data you have requested above would ordinarily be fairly simple to extract. However, on 4th December 2017 South Yorkshire Police implemented a new recording system (CONNECT) which replaces several 'stand-alone' systems within the organisation such as our Custody Handling System (CHS) and Crime Management System (CMS).

Arrest data prior to 4th December 2017 is held on our legacy system (CHS) and latest arrest data is held on our new CONNECT system. Unfortunately, we are experiencing technical difficulties in extracting data of this nature from the new (CONNECT) system. We are working to try and resolve the situation as swiftly as possible, but not in time to provide you with a response to your request above within the FOI legislative time frame. The only way in which we would be able to extract this data at this moment in time would be to manually trawl through all custody records for this period and extract any relevant data which meets the criteria of your request. This would, I regret, take us over the 18 hour cost threshold.

We are however, able to provide you with data from our legacy system CHS which records details relating to arrests and detainees held in custody up to 4th December 2017.

I therefore approached our Custody Handling System (CHS) Analyst for assistance with your request, who conducted a search of the system using the criteria above and provided the raw data from which the attached arrest data has been compiled.

Question 2

I manually reviewed the free text field for the description relating to the arrest, and on the cases where a description had been completed there was no mention of the words you have listed above. As such, my formal response to this element of your request is one of 'no information held'.

Month / Year	Cjs Code	Desc	Title
May-16	PS16004	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS)	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Jun-16	PS16004	OTHER DRUG OFFENCES	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Jun-16	PS16004	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS)	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Jul-16	PS16004	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS)	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Sep-16	PS16004	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS)	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Sep-16	PS16004	OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCE	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Sep-16	PS16004	OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCE	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Sep-16	PS16004	OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCE	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Oct-16	PS16002	OTHER DRUG OFFENCES	SUPPLY A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE
Jan-17	PS16004	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS)	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Jan-17	PS16004	OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCE	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Jan-17	PS16004	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS)	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Jan-17	PS16004	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS)	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Jan-17	PS16004	POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS)	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY
Feb-17	PS16002	OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCE	SUPPLY A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE
Mar-17	PS16002	OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCE	SUPPLY A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE
Mar-17	PS16002	OTHER NOTIFIABLE OFFENCE	SUPPLY A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE
Oct-17	PS16004	OTHER DRUG OFFENCES	POSSESS A PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY