

12 April 2017

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20170603

REQUEST

Please provide data on the number of times children aged 17 years old and younger were kept overnight in police custody in 2016. My definition of overnight is: between midnight and 8am, where an individual has been held in custody for 4 or more hours during this time.

Q1. How many children aged 17 years and under have spent one or more nights in police custody in 2016?

Q2. Please break the figures in Q1 down by age (e.g. 17 years old – 105 children; 16 years old – 110 children; 15 years old – 74 children etc.)

Q3. Please break the figures in Q1 down by gender (e.g. Male – 402 children; Female – 161 children).

Q4. Please break the figures in Q1 down by ethnicity (e.g. White British – 162 children; White European – 27 children; Black or Black British-African – children; Black or Black British-Caribbean – 12 children; Chinese – 21 children etc.)

Q5. In relation to Q1 please provide details of the longest period one child aged 17 years old or younger was held in police custody.

RESPONSE

I contacted our Custody Handling System Administrator for assistance with your request. She carried out a search for detentions of those aged 17 and under in 2016. She has provided me with the age, gender, ethnicity date/time detention started and date/time of release.

We do not record the total period an individual was held, this would have to be 'worked out' from the date and time detained and the date and time released. As you may be aware, FOI legislation concerns *recorded* information – Public Authorities are not obliged to create data purely to facilitate FOI requests; in essence, our response is one of 'information not held'.

However if we interpret your request to mean an individual whose detention started at any point between midnight and 8am – regardless of the length of time in custody e.g. someone may be brought in at midnight and released at 2am we can state:-

1. 321 records
- 2 – 4 Please see the attached document.
5. No information as per the explanation above.