

18 June 2018

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180889**

**REQUEST**

I am writing to request data in relation to s.4 Sexual Offences Act 2003; causing a person to engage in sexual activity without consent. Under the Home Office Counting Rules for Sexual Offences, the code associated with this offence is 22A. Reading the codes under this offence as referring to male and female victims when talking about male and female persons, I am specifically interested in those offences coded under 22/2 and 22/3 involving penetration (please see - [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/602801/count-sexual-apr-2017.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/602801/count-sexual-apr-2017.pdf) p.40)

In the 'Overview of Sexual Offending in England and Wales' overview tables (available here - [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/214971/overview-sexual-offending-jan-2013-tables.zip](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/214971/overview-sexual-offending-jan-2013-tables.zip) ) data is provided in relation to the reporting of a range of sexual offences, but does not include specific data relating to the offences coded under 22/2 and 22/3. I would like the equivalent of the data provided in these tables and in the same format in relation to the offences coded under 22/2 and 22/3, including a break-down of this data into the defendants' sex, age group, and ethnicity. This translates to requesting the equivalent information and in the same format as that provided in the following overview tables:

- 3.2
- 3.3
- 3.4
- 3.5
- 3.7
- 3.8

I would like this data for the years 2005 to 2011 (reflecting the overview tables), plus any subsequent years it is available.

**RESPONSE**

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Officer 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)

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

*I have provided a count of offences recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2005 and 04-Dec-2017 where the Home Office Offence classes are 22.1 CAUSING SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITHOUT CONSENT and 22.2 SEXUAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING A CHILD UNDER 16, broken down by the offence recorded and the year the offence was recorded.*

*I have liaised with the Audit and Governance unit regarding the significant increase for each offence class over the years, they have assured me there has been no issue with how the data has been recorded and extracted and this is an accurate picture for the recording of these offences at this time from the live system.*

*Of the offence count, I have provided offender details for where there is an accused offender or a named suspect, broken down by age, gender & ethnicity where recorded. I have also included a breakdown of the offender's disposal.*

*The Home Office changed the approach to reviewing outcomes of crimes implemented in South Yorkshire in July 2014, and now a broader framework is now in place. A crime which would have previously been closed as 'undetected' is now given a specific outcome based on the specific circumstances of that crime. However, as requested we have only provided specific outcomes based on the requesters requirements.*

*In addition, the outcomes CHARGED, SUMMONS and CAUTIONS changed in 2017 and we now specifically record for what offence, the offender was charged i.e. CHARGED is now recorded as either CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED Or CHARGED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE, therefore the outcomes are applicable depending on the year recorded the offence was recorded.*

*Data is only taken up to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 as SYP changed their central crime management system at this point in time. I have not provided data from the new system CONNECT as this cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded.*