

8 October 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20181762

ORIGINAL REQUEST

Please provide the number of arrests made by your police force under section three of the Vagrancy Act 1824 in the financial years ranging from 2015-16, to 2017-18. I am not seeking information on the prostitution and indecency clauses of Section 3; accordingly, the police force should use the following Section 3 offences if possible:

- Wandering abroad to beg or gather alms
- Placing self in public place to beg
- Procuring child to beg
- Person other than prostitute being idle and disorderly
- Causing child to beg
- Collecting alms or endeavouring to procure charitable contribution by false pretence
- Wandering abroad and exposing wound or deformity to obtain alms
- Persistently beg
- Sleeping out

2. Of these arrests, please provide the number of individuals who:
 - a. Were listed as having 'NFA'
 - b. Were subsequently charged with an offence
 - c. Were issued a fine
 - i. Please provide the amount of each fine given

SYP REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

You may find that research of the Log may be worthwhile prior to submitting future requests as this may well result in the information being available immediately rather than any delay resulting from the process of responding to a request under the Act. In particular, we would draw your attention to the following entries: -

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/media/2404/20172010-response.pdf>

Please note also we are unable to provide arrest details from December 5th 2017 due to technical difficulties in extracting arrest data following a switch to a new crime recording system.

REFINED REQUEST

Thanks for your response - following the information you provided could I please amend my search to the below:

Please provide the number of arrests made by your police force under section three of the Vagrancy Act 1824 for the year 2018 to date. I am not seeking information on the prostitution

and indecency clauses of Section 3; accordingly, the police force should use the following Section 3 offences if possible:

- . Wandering abroad to beg or gather alms
- . Placing self in public place to beg
- . Procuring child to beg
- . Person other than prostitute being idle and disorderly
- . Causing child to beg
- . Collecting alms or endeavouring to procure charitable contribution by false pretence
- . Wandering abroad and exposing wound or deformity to obtain alms
- . Persistently beg
- . Sleeping out

2. Of these, please list the number of arrests that led to a charge

3. Of all arrests under the criteria listed in (1) from 2014-2018, please provide the number of individuals who:

- a. Were listed as having no fixed address
- b. Were issued a fine
 - i. Please provide the amount of each fine given

RESPONSE

As explained in my request for clarification, we are unfortunately unable to provide any arrest data from 5th December 2017 to date, due to extraction issues with a new system. Ordinarily, we would offer to retrieve recorded crime statistics as an alternative. However, I am advised by our Data Returns Officer that offences under the Vagrancy Act are not Home Office Crime Recordable.

In an attempt to provide some data which I hope will be useful, I approached our Custody Handling System Administrator for our legacy custody system to retrieve available data in respect of your specific request as far as possible.

He searched the system using the criteria of your request up to 4th December 2017 and was able to extract data in relation to the following offence codes and provide me with the raw data from which the enclosed tables have been compiled.

VG24003 – Begging wandering abroad
VG24015 – Begging 2nd/Subsequent occasion
VG24005 – Begging in public place
VG24013 - Begging 2nd/Subsequent occasion
VG24047 – Persistently begging in public place

Question 3bi

I have checked with our Central Ticket Office and they have advised that they do not deal with tickets of this nature, and as such our formal response to this element of your request is one of 'no information held'.