

26 September 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20192098

REQUEST

Please could you provide us with:

- 1) The number of people arrested for environmental protests since 31/8/19 (even if they were released the same day).***
- 2) Any details you are able to give about each arrest (for example names of those arrested, age, date of arrest, description of offence).***

RESPONSE

Our Custody records are only searchable by certain categories for example an offence title or offender name. Unfortunately, it is not possible to search by a specific event such as 'Protest', or by an event title or key words such as 'Extinction Rebellion'. However, there would be the option of manually reviewing all arrests for the specific dates that the protests were held, and trying to establish if the arrest was associated with the protests; or identifying the most likely offence titles for the specific dates and manually reviewing the circumstances of the arrest. Unfortunately, I am anticipating that none of these options would be possible without engaging Section 12 - Appropriate Limit, that is, the process of manually reviewing the records for each arrest in either of these circumstances is likely to exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

In an attempt to assist further however, I contacted our Media Department to ascertain whether there had been any media statements drawn up containing details of any anecdotal arrests from the events. Our Deputy Head of Communications has advised the following:

Nothing from us I'm afraid – I am aware we have had two protests in Sheffield this year (March and September), but we didn't comment on either as I believe they passed without incident.

I also contacted our District Business Managers, who work closely with the District Command teams. Our Sheffield District Business Manager (representing the area where the protests were held) has advised the following:

To date the information I have is that there have been 2 extinction rebellion events and no arrests.

With this in mind our formal response is one of 'no information held'.