

23rd November 2018

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20182039**

**REQUEST**

***Please could you provide me with the following information regarding drug seizures from schools in the South Yorkshire area from January 2015 to October 2018:***

- ***How many times drugs have been seized from school premises during the above period***
- ***Details of each seizure including, but not limited to:***
  - ***The date***
  - ***Type, amount and value of the drugs involved***
  - ***The type of school (secondary or primary)***
  - ***Who the drug was seized or confiscated from, including but not limited to age and gender***

**RESPONSE**

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator 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)

For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data. The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

It should be noted:

Unfortunately currently, we are unable to retrieve Offender data from the Connect System. Performance Management Unit has taken the decision that we are unable to provide data regarding suspects i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues. However, we can provide the offence outcomes.

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

*FOI,*

*Please the attached data and the below explanation.*

*CMS(ii) data*

*Included is a count of offences recorded under the Home Office Offence Classes POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (CANNABIS), POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS) AND TRAFFICKING IN CONTROLLED DRUGS, where the scene of crime premise type is SCHOOL\COLLEGE, where the offence was recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2015 and 04-Dec-2017. Of this count, included is a breakdown of the property class, quantity and volume and a breakdown of the offender's gender and age at the time of incident.*

*Please note – I have provided both accused and suspect status – some suspects may be duplicated i.e. if we record a suspect description and then go on to identify a suspect we could possibly record both on the crime report which could result in duplication.*

#### **CONNECT data**

*Included is a count of offences recorded under the Home Office Offence Classes POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (CANNABIS), POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED DRUGS (EXCLUDING CANNABIS) AND TRAFFICKING IN CONTROLLED DRUGS, where the MO DESC 1 is Location, MO DESC 2 is Educational Establishment and the MO DESC 3 is School, where the offence was recorded on CONNECT for crime between 04-Dec-2017 and 31-Oct-2018.*

*I cannot provide a breakdown of the drug type for CONNECT data as currently this is not currently a mandated requirement, therefore the data is not consistently recorded.*

*As previously advised, PMU has taken the decision that currently we are unable to provide data regarding suspects i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues.*

*We have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS(ii). SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.*