

11th February 2020

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20200331

REQUEST

I would be very grateful if South Yorkshire Police could provide me with information on the following:

- ***The number of children under the age of 10 suspected of committing crimes by South Yorkshire Police in 2017, 2018 and 2019.***
- ***For each child, I would like their age, as well as detail of the crime they were accused of committing.***
- ***I would like this information broken down into annual datasets please for 2017, 2018 and 2019.***

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.

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

Please see the attached data and the below explanation.

CMS(ii) Data –

I have provided a count of offences recorded on the CMS(ii) Crime Register between 01-Jan-2017 and 04-Dec-2017 where an offender has been recorded with the outcome NAMED SUSPECT - BELOW THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY. Of the offence count, I have provided a breakdown of both the offenders' age at the time of offence.

Please note – we do not expect a count of offences to reflect a count of offenders as some offences may be recorded with multiple offenders.

CONNECT Data -

I have provided a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2019 where the offence outcome is 11 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified but is below the Age of Criminal Responsibility.

Offender data has not been provided for CONNECT due to the ongoing issues regarding the recording of offenders. PMU has taken the decision that we are unable to provide data regarding offenders i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues and because this data would be based on the offender's age we cannot currently fulfil this part of request.

Please be advised that due to the low numbers of both Victim & Offenders involved in this request the information has been provided on individual tables and in alphabetical and ascending order to anonymise the data and make it suitable for release into the public domain. In this format, it restricts any possibility of identifying individuals.

Disclosure of information on a 'line by line' basis - offences and ages within the date parameters requested may make it possible to identify individuals from that data, and/or other information in the possession of a data controller. It is not therefore available in this format as it would be exempt from release under Section 40(2) *Personal Information* of the FOI Act. I also considered engaging Section 44 (1) *Prohibition on Disclosures*, in respect of Section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 1992 (as amended by Schedule 6 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) which gives victims/offenders of specific offences a guaranteed anonymity.

However, I believe releasing the data in the format explained would mitigate any concerns.