

21st March 2018

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20180411**

**REQUEST**

***I'd like to submit an FOI Act request as follows: How many homeless people or rough sleepers have been arrested under the Vagrancy Act 1824 in the last five years for which figures are available?***

**RESPONSE**

I approached our Custody Handling System (CHS) Administrator to assist with the arrest element of your request.

On 5th December 2017 South Yorkshire Police implemented a new recording system called Connect which replaces our Custody Handling System (CHS) . Arrest data prior to 5th December 2017 is held on our legacy system (CHS) and latest arrest data is held on our new CONNECT system.

Unfortunately, we are unable to retrieve arrest data from the Connect system from 6<sup>th</sup> December on wards due to search capabilities and technical issues but I have provided the data up to 5<sup>th</sup> December. We are working to try and resolve this situation as swiftly as possible.

She has supplied the data from which the below table has been compiled.

| Arrest Title  | Years |      |      |      |      | Grand Total |
|---|-------|------|------|------|------|-------------|
|   | 2013  | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |             |
| BEGGING AND WANDERING ABROAD                              |       | 1    |      |      |      | 1           |
| BEGGING IN A PUBLIC PLACE                                 | 5     | 10   | 10   | 13   | 9    | 47          |
| BEGGING IN A PUBLIC PLACE - SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OCCASION |       | 2    |      | 1    | 2    | 5           |
|   |       |      |      |      |      | 53          |

Please note that police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide information and statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor

