

8th November 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20181904

REQUEST

This request relates to sexual offences recorded by your police force, including rape and other sexual offences as outlined in the Home Office Counting Rules:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/694435/count-sexual-apr-2018.pdf

Please provide the following information broken down by calendar years a) 2014, b) 2015, c) 2016, d) 2017 and e) 2018 so far.

For each type of sexual offence listed in the Home Office Counting Rules, please state:

- 1. The total number of sexual offences recorded.***
- 2. The total number of sexual offences recorded in which the victim(s) was recorded as having any disability.***
- 3. The total number of sexual offences recorded in which the victim(s) was recorded as having a learning disability.***

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:

For 2 and 3, as there is not a specific field for recording a victim's disability on CMS or CONNECT, I used the vulnerability of the victim on the VCOP Log (CMS) or Reason Vulnerable field (CONNECT).

For CMS, I searched for where the victim's vulnerability had been recorded as any of the following throughout any point of the investigation:

- "MENTAL DISORDER OR IMPAIRED SOCIAL FUNCTION"*
- "PHYSICAL DISORDER OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY"*
- "OTHER REASON FOR VULNERABILITY" and the other reason recorded was like "%DISAB%".*

For CONNECT, I searched for where the Reason Vulnerable field was any of the following:

- *LEARNING DISABILITY*
- *MENTAL DISORDER*
- *PHYSICAL DISABILITY OR PHYSICAL DISORDER*
- *SIG. IMPAIRMENT – INTEL/SOCIAL FUNCTION*

A victim's vulnerability can be updated at any point, which is why the dataset includes all victims of crimes who had been recorded as vulnerable due to those reasons at any time during the investigation.

For CMS data, without a manual trawl or free text search where the vulnerability was recorded as "Other...", we would not be able to provide the volume with a learning disability.

A free text search would not be reliable as most would probably be recorded as mental disorder or impaired social function, rather than 'Other'. However, Learning Disability is a specific vulnerability reason in CONNECT, and so this was provided for the CONNECT data. This does rely on the OIC recording the vulnerability of the victim (~85% they do record vulnerability).

We have had to take a 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.