5 June 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20191061

REQUEST

1) The number of reports of vehicle number plate cloning made during the 2018/19 financial year
2) The number of arrests made in connection with vehicle number plate cloning during the 2018/19 financial year
3) The number of people convicted in connection with vehicle number plate cloning during the 2018/19 financial year

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Data Returns Officer for assistance with your request. The Crime Management system - CONNECT 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 system and provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet in response and the following explanation regarding her search criteria:

There is no offence of 'Vehicle Number Plate Cloning', therefore is the requester referring to the offences where a number plate has been obtained illegally i.e. by producing false documents? If so, dependant of the circumstances of offence, such may be recorded under the Home Office Offence Class 814 Fraud, Forgery etc. associated with Vehicle or Driver Records.

However, to be consistent, I have provided data in line with a similar previous request which was also based on the Theft of Registrations plates. If this does not satisfy the requester please can the requester clarify what is meant by 'cloning' of number plates?

CONNECT DATA –

I have provided a count of offences recorded on CONNECT for Crime between 01-Apr-2018- and 31-Mar-2019 where the Property Class 3 is NUMBER PLATE / VRN / REGISTRATION PLATE and the Property Status is Stolen or Stolen / Recovered, with a breakdown of the offence outcome.

I have provided the offence outcome as an alternative to the offender outcome - South Yorkshire Police consider investigation outcomes with the utmost importance to understand the effectiveness of our activity in relation to victim wishes and criminal justice delivery. Certain data fields within the force's crime reporting system are not all mandatory, therefore we do not recommend the use of offender level outcome to be the most effective way of measuring crime outcomes. Currently we recommend using the outcome of the investigation to be the most accurate way of reporting and presenting this data. This aligns to the data that is reported to the Home Office for purposes of national comparison.