

5th November 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202142

REQUEST

***Could you please disclose annual data in your police force area from Mar 2003 to Mar 2019 for:
the number of cancelled crime records (crime recorded in error) by financial year and crime type (rape offences, other sexual offences, robbery, burglary, and motor theft)?***

CLARIFICATION

I approached our Performance & Governance Unit for assistance with this request. They are the Administrators of the Crime Management Systems and record crimes in line with Home Office Counting rules. They have asked me to clarify the following:

I can provide a count of offences that have been initially recorded for CONNECT Crime SINCE 04-Dec-2017 which have subsequently been cancelled in accordance with the below extract from the Home Office Counting Rules –

C Removing Crime Records (1 of 3) When to Classify

There are five criteria when crimes which are already recorded may either; be cancelled from local records or transferred to a force that it has already been established owns the crime. Removing records appropriately ensures both that locally reported crime and national crime data are accurate and promote the trust and confidence of victims and the public.

Criteria to transfer or cancel

C1: Transferred: crime committed outside the jurisdiction of the police force in which it was recorded – passed to that force. Crimes committed within the jurisdiction of another police force area in England and Wales should be referred to the respective force – and the record may only be removed once a crime reference has been obtained from the receiving force and the victim has been advised of that new crime number.

Clarification: It is expected that once a force has determined that a crime is made out in accordance with NCRS and records it – then any subsequent transfer to another force would ordinarily result in the immediate recording of a confirmed crime by the force accepting the transfer – unless the FCR in the receiving force is entirely satisfied that no notifiable crime has been committed in their force area.

C2: Cancelled: additional verifiable information that determines that no notifiable crime occurred becomes available. Where following the report and recording of a crime additional verifiable information (AVI) is available that determines that no notifiable offence has occurred the crime may be removed.

C3: Cancelled: duplicate record or part of a crime already recorded. Crimes which constitute a duplicate record of a crime, or part of a crime that is already recorded within a force, must be cancelled to avoid duplication of statistics.

C4: Cancelled: crime recorded in error. Crimes which have been recorded in error or by mistake as a notifiable crime should be cancelled to ensure accuracy of statistical records.

C5: Cancelled: self defence claimed (for specific recorded assaults). Where the recorded crime is one of assault within classification 8N (Section 47 ABH only) or classification 104 or 105A and evidence shows an offender has acted in self defence a crime record may be cancelled.

FROM THE REQUESTER

The cancelled crime records of type C4 (Cancelled: crime recorded in error. Crimes which have been recorded in error or by mistake as a notifiable crime should be cancelled to ensure accuracy of statistical records) is what I would like to apply.

*The request: Could you please disclose annual data in your police force area from Mar 2003 to Mar 2019 for: the number of cancelled crime records (**C4: crime recorded in error**) by financial year and crime type (rape offences, other sexual offences, robbery, burglary, and motor theft)?*

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

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

Please see the attached data and below explanation.

I have provided a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 04-Dec-2017 and 30-Sep-2020 and then subsequently cancelled with the No Offence Type - C4 Cancel - Recorded in Error.

Without reviewing the circumstances of each offence we cannot advise why each offence was cancelled and the additional verifiable information that informed the decision to cancel.