

17th February 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20210120

REQUEST

The information I would like to request is:

- *The number of stolen pets reported (theft or robbery) in the years 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, and 2010.*
- *The number of stolen dogs reported (theft or robbery) in the years 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, and 2010.*
- *The number of dogs taken in robberies reported in the years 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, and 2010.*
- *The number of stolen dogs reunited with owners in the years 2020, 2019, 2018, 2015, and 2010.*

CLARIFICATION

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/dog-theft-ref-20200531/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/stolen-pets-ref-20190667/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/dog-theft-ref-20190223/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/animal-theft-ref-20180843/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/dogscat-theft-ref-20180368/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/animal-theft-ref-20171757/>

FROM THE REQUESTER

I'm afraid the data already provided doesn't match what I'm looking for as it doesn't cover the correct years with the required variables. The specific calendar years stated below are crucial to my search.

Please continue by providing the data.

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'.

(CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

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

Please see the attached data and the below explanation.

I have provided a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 01-Jan-2018 and 31-Dec-2020 where the Property Status is Stolen or Stolen\Recovered and Property Class 2 is Animal or Pet Animal. Of the offence count, I have provided a breakdown of the Property Status.

*I cannot ensure the accuracy regarding the recording of the Property Status as this is not a mandated requirement and I would suggest that this is a not reliable field to use to identify if the dog has been **'reunited with owners'**. Please note -*

Offences are recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules – General Rules - The Principal Crime Rule (1 of 1) - IF THE SEQUENCE OF CRIMES IN AN INCIDENT, OR A COMPLEX CRIME, CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF CRIME, THEN COUNT THE MOST SERIOUS.

As advised above, Property recovered/reunited it is not a mandated requirement so may not include details after the Offence was logged that state if the Animal was later reunited with its owners.

Unfortunately given the current situation the Administrator is not currently working in police premises and cannot access the software needed to extract data from CMS (legacy system) we will provide this as soon as we are able to do so. Her explanation is as follows:

CMS(ii) Data –

Given the present situation, I am currently working from home and cannot access the software needed to extract data from CMS(ii), I will therefore provide data for 2010 and 2015 at a later date.