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Our Ref: FOI2018/01086

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/01086

I write in connection with your request for information received on 27th February. I note you seek access to the following information:

In my time in the Police Force, begging was always an arrestable offence under an 1861 Law (Post Napoleonic War Legislation). In this world of Social Worker Policing, what laws pertain to removing beggars from the Street or Public Places by arrest and where can I find actual details of any such Legislation. On how many occasions in the last 5 years, by year please, has any such legislation been enforced in Hertfordshire Police and if kept, how many times has it been enforced in Dacorum Borough. Raymond Ogden

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response – Please see below table detailing the total figures for Herts (excluding out of force and no crimed offences) for the last five years.

**These offences all fall under offence code 182, covered by Sections 3 & 4 of the Vagrancy Act of 1824.*

| Year | Number of offences |
|------|--------------------|
| 2013 | 5 |
| 2014 | 18 |
| 2015 | 12 |
| 2016 | 34 |
| 2017 | 9 |

Of these offences two occurred in the Borough of Dacorum.

All information on the legislations of begging is readily available in the public domain. Please see the below links;

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/all?title=vagrancy>

This information is therefore exempt from disclosure under S21 of the Freedom of Information Act, Information Accessible by Other Means.

Section 21 provides that where information is available to you from another source we do not have to provide further copies.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.