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13th August 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/03842

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/03842

I write in connection with your request for information received on 16th July. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. i. What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2015?

1.ii. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2015?

2. i. What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2016?

2.ii. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2016?

3.i. What were the total number of cat theft crimes in 2017?

3.ii. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft crime in 2017?

4. What criteria do you use for recording a cat/kitten as a theft as opposed to missing?

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

Counting theft offences against recorded data where a cat was stolen, excluding Out of Force and Cancelled crimes.

Relevant offences were determined by examining the MO and Property Details of each respective crime where 'cat' or 'kitten' was mentioned on such screens.

Q1 i) – 3

ii) – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.

NAMED SUSPECT EVIDENTIAL DIFFICULTIES
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT

Q2 i) – 7

ii) – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.

INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT

INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
NAMED SUSPECT VICTIM UNSUPPORTIVE

Q3 i) – 8

ii) – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.

CHARGED/SUMMONSED
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
INVESTIGATION COMPLETE NO SUSPECT
NAMED SUSPECT VICTIM UNSUPPORTIVE
NAMED SUSPECT VICTIM UNSUPPORTIVE
SUSPECT NOT ID VICTIM UNSUPPORTIVE

Q4 – Hertfordshire Constabulary records crime against the Home Office Counting Rules.

As per the rules, an incident will be recorded as a crime, for victim related offences, if on balance of probability:

- (a) The circumstances of the victim's report amount to a crime as defined by law (the police will determine this, based on their knowledge of the law and the counting rules); and
- (b) There is no credible evidence to the contrary immediately available.

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.