



Geneen Bill
Information Rights
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Our Ref: Beds FOI2018/04126 Cambs FOI2018/04141 Herts FOI2018/04145

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/04126

I write in connection with your request for information received on 26th July. I note you seek access to the following information:

Request details: I am requesting information under the FOI Act 2000 regarding your force's custody system, the risk assessment of detainees' health and wellbeing in police detention and incidence of self-harm. Specifically, I would like to request information about the following:

- 1. Does your force have a computerised custody record system, if so, which type is it and who provides it (e.g. Niche, Athena etc)?**
- 2. Does the computerised custody record system contain a risk assessment tool or algorithm for identifying the health and wellbeing needs of detainees?**
- 3. If the computerised custody system does not have a risk assessment tool or algorithm included in it, does it use a series of questions based on the College of Policing APP for the risk assessment of detainees' health and wellbeing needs?**
- 4. Do you use any other "standalone" computer-based system for risk assessing detainee health and wellbeing needs, if so, please can you describe what this is and who it is provided by?**
- 5. On what date was any computer-based risk assessment tool and/or set of risk assessment questions introduced?**
- 6. How many incidents of self-harm by detainees in police detention occurred in the 24 months prior to the implementation of any computer-based risk assessment tool or set of questions?**
- 7. How many incidents of self-harm by detainees in police detention occurred in the 24 months after the implementation of any computer-based risk assessment tool or set of questions?**
- 8. What are the detainee throughput numbers, by gender, age and ethnicity for the periods covered by questions 6 and 7 above?**
- 9. Please provide a breakdown of self-harm incidents occurring in police detention for the time periods shown in questions 6 and 7, under the following categories: a. Type of self-harm incident according to any categories that your force identifies (e.g. cutting, swallowing, overdose, ligature, attempted suicide, suicide by any means, "headbanging" or other physical harm to self); b. Gender, age and ethnicity. If any of the information required has been made available previously, or is elsewhere available in the public domain, please can you indicate where and how it may be accessed. .**

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.

Response – Bedfordshire Police, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Constabulary work within a collaborated unit. Following enquiries within the Force please see our response below:

1. Yes. Athena
2. No
3. Yes – a series of initial risk assessment questions is asked.
4. No
5. Athena was implemented within Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire on 23rd May 2018
6. Due to the new system being implemented unfortunately we can only provide from June 2017/18. We implemented a Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire Custody Incident reporting system in June 2017. This system was reviewed and the revised system was re-launched in Feb 2018. The figures for self-harm include

attempted self-harm and this cannot be distinguished in the data June 2017-January 2018. The data for item used to self-harm is only available for Feb-June 2018 on the attached document Annex A FOI2018 04145.

Data – June 2017- Jan 2018

Force	Throughput	Self-Harm/Attempt Self-harm/other	Self-harm/ attempt self-harm – using concealed item
Beds	6224	46	4
Cambs	7865	41	8
Herts	10393	71	14
Total	24482	158	26

Data – Feb 2018 - Jun 2018

Force	Throughput	Self-Harm/Attempt Self-harm	Self-harm/ attempt self-harm – resulting in injury
Beds	3578	24	8
Cambs	4714	17	6
Herts	6061	41	11
Total	14353	82	27

7. Athena went live at the end of May, we therefore only have data for a month post go live, which is included in the tables above. Prior to this, we already had a computer based initial risk assessment question set for previous computer systems.
8. We are unable to provide this data as it would take in excess of the 18 hour limit. It is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require hundreds of records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –
“Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Bedfordshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

9. Please see the attached document – Annex A FOI2018 04145

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

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Bedfordshire Police 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 Bedfordshire Police 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.

