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28th August 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/04199

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/04199**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 30th July. I note you seek access to the following information:

**Please could you provide under the Freedom of Information Act the following information in an Excel spreadsheet (.xls or .csv). Preferably, please could you fill in or replicate the attached spreadsheet (see below template) unless doing so would preclude you from answering this request.**

**For each of the following calendar years, the number of “citizen’s arrests” made in your police force area (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 so far).**

**Please also break the number of arrests down by the type of crime, see below for categories.**

**If the breakdown by crime type is not possible, please at least provide the overall number of citizen’s arrests made in each year.**

**When reporting 2018 I will take the date of your reply as the date to which the figures are correct unless you specify otherwise.**

Crime Type	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
2016 2017 2018					
Homicide					
Offences involving knives and sharp instruments					
Offences involving firearms					
Other violent crime					
Sexual offences					
Criminal damage and arson					
Vehicle theft offences					
Burglary					
Other household theft					
Theft from the person					
Other theft of personal property					
Bicycle theft					
Shoplifting					
All other theft offences					
Robbery					
Fraud					
Computer misuse					
Public order offences					
Drug offences					
Possession of weapons					
Unknown					
Other category					

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** – Arrest data is recorded on our Custody System along with the details of the arresting officer who would be the individual who 'takes over' from the member of the public/PCSO who made the 'citizen's arrest'.

The only way of identifying any arrest of this kind would be to conduct a free text search, however this search would be too varied as to make this a meaningful proposition. The phrase 'citizen's arrest' is unlikely to be used, words could include 'member of the public/MOP', 'security', 'employee' or 'held in store' etc. All these phrases could also be used in other contexts and this would need to be disambiguated. This would involve manually reading each individual arrest record, with upward of 50,000 arrests a year this would far exceed the time limit.

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 thousands 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 Hertfordshire Constabulary, 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.

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.