



James Hodson  
 Information Rights  
 Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,  
 Woburn Road, Kempston,  
 Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547  
 Email: [foi@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@herts.pnn.police.uk)

17th December 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/06693

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/06693**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 20th November. I note you seek access to the following information:

**I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following data from your force covering the past three calendar years and available data for this year - 2017, 2016, and 2015 and the year-to-date for 2018.**

**How many children (those aged under 18) in this time period have been arrested on suspicion of A) Arson endangering life and B) Arson not endangering life?**

**The offences are logged under Home Office Classification codes 56A and 56B respectively**

**Please provide the ages of those arrested: for example X number of 10-year-olds, X number of 11-year-olds, and so on to include all those aged under 18. There should be no issue with "identification".**

**2) Please also provide the number of those aged under 18 who were charged with both offences in the same time period. Please also provide the ages of those charged.**

**3) Please provide the total number of adults (18 and over) arrested on suspicion of both offences in the same time period.**

**4) Please also provide the total number of adults charged with the offences in the same time period.**

**Thank you and if you see any issue in getting back to me with a full response to this request in the time period please let me know as soon as possible**

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**

**Q1A and 3A – How many children (under 18) and adults were ARRESTED for Arson Endangering Life (56A) and what were their ages?**

Calendar Year (i)	Aged 10	Aged 11	Aged 12	Aged 13	Aged 14	Aged 15	Aged 16	Aged 17	Adult
2015	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	2	37
2016	0	0	0	7	7	3	1	4	34
2017	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	24
2018	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5

**(i) based on date of arrests**

**Q1B and 3B – How many people (children <18 and adults) were arrested for Arson NOT Endangering Life (56B) and what were their ages?**

Calendar Year (i)	Aged 10	Aged 11	Aged 12	Aged 13	Aged 14	Aged 15	Aged 16	Aged 17	Adult
-------------------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	-------

2015	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	2	37
2016	0	0	0	7	7	3	1	4	34
2017	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	24
2018	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	5

**(i) based on date of arrests**

**Q2A and Q4A** – How many people (children <18 and adults) were CHARGED for Arson Endangering Life (56A) and what were their ages?

Calendar Year (i)	Aged 10	Aged 11	Aged 12	Aged 13	Aged 14	Aged 15	Aged 16	Aged 17	Adult
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2016	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10
2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

**(i) based on date of arrests**

**Q2B and Q4B** – How many people (children <18 and adults) were CHARGED for Arson Endangering NOT Life (56B) and what were their ages?

Calendar Year (i)	Aged 10	Aged 11	Aged 12	Aged 13	Aged 14	Aged 15	Aged 16	Aged 17	Adult
2015	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	13
2016	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	17
2017	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
2018	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1

**(i) based on date of arrests**

One adult was CHARGED for both offences in 2015 and none in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

No children were CHARGED for both offences in 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018.

**LIMITATIONS**

- A person arrested is one whose custody record has been linked to a crime with codes 56/1, 56/1/1 or 56/1/2 (56A – Arson endangering life) and/or 56/2 or 56/2/1 (Arson not endangering life). A charged person is one where they have been arrested and charged for one of these crimes. (56/1 etc. are Herts 3-level crime codes.)
- Where a person has been linked to more than one crime of the same type, it will only be counted as one person linked to that crime type – the questions refer to counting people not crimes. No account has been taken of other crimes linked to an arrest.
- 'Charged' excludes other outcomes such as cautions or where the processes have not been completed fully.
- No arrests after 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 have been included as a new crime/custody/intel system was introduced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018, so 2018 must be treated as an incomplete year.
- Ages are based on the date a person was arrested and calculated as the difference between the date of arrest and their date of birth.
- A person will be counted as having been arrested or charged for both offences in a year if they have been arrested or charged for both types of offence in a calendar year. This will include cases where someone was arrested for both offences at the same time and also if they were arrested on separate occasions for each offence type.

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.