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Our Ref: FOI2018/00247

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/00247**

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

1. Please can you send me the total number of complaints you have received concerning the use of airguns to threaten a) people and b) animals for each year since 2010.
2. Please can you provide the total number of arrests made concerning airgun incidents for each year since 2010.
3. Please can you provide the total number of charges made each year since 2010 concerning airgun offences.
4. Please can you provide the total number of prosecutions taken each year since 2010 concerning airgun offences, and if practicable list the offences.
5. Please can you provide the total number of convictions secured each year since 2010 concerning airgun offences

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**

**Q1** – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.

Calendar Year	People	Animals
2010	102	17
2011	115	18
2012	110	15
2013	134	16
2014	186	18
2016	180	21
2017	212	16

*This table shows the number of incidents (i.e. calls to the police) where the incident log contained either the word “airgun”, “air gun” or “air rifle” and which also contained a word indicating some threat i.e. “shot”, “shoot”, “shooting”, “fired”, “firing” or “pointing”.*

*Any which contained the words “cat”, “dog”, “bird” or “pigeon” and where this was the pretext for reporting were classified as “animal”. This is subjective as incidents were reported about someone shooting at birds but the real concern could be accidental injury to children, pedestrians etc.*

**Q2** – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.

Calendar Year	No. of Arrests
2010	34
2011	12

2012	4
2013	5
2014	7
2015	7
2016	15
2017	4

*This table shows the number of persons arrested linked to crimes which either have a Modus Operandi of "airgun" or have the word "airgun", "air gun" or "air rifle" in the Modus Operandi text and where this text relates to the use of an airgun being fired at a person, animal or property (such as house or vehicle).*

**Q3** – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.

Row Labels	Charged	Cautioned	Other
2010	12	12	1
2011	6	6	7
2012	2	3	4
2013	6	5	1
2014	4	2	1
2015	6	5	-
2016	8	4	1
2017	2	1	1

*This table shows the number positive disposals of offenders linked to the crimes identified above. 'Other' includes Community Resolutions and Restorative Justice Resolutions.*

**Q4 and Q5** – Hertfordshire Constabulary do not record prosecution / conviction data. This information is held by the Crown Prosecution Service. Accordingly I have determined that the information to which you seek is not held by Hertfordshire Constabulary.

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.