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17th July 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/03539

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/03539

I write in connection with your request for information received on 29th June. I note you seek access to the following information:

For each question I am seeking information for each of the following time periods (financial years):

- i) 2014/15
- ii) 2015/16
- iii) 2016/17
- iv) 2017/18 to date (most recent data available)

1. How many nights did individuals spend in a police cell as a result of cannabis related offences (e.g. possession, dealing)?
2. How many of those arrested due to cannabis related offences (e.g. possession, dealing), were released without charge?

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

Arrests where the detainee spent four hours in police custody between the hours of midnight and 8am for arrests linked to crimes relating to cannabis or reasons for arrest or the offence the arrest offence was related to cannabis.					
Source: First Arrest Live data (from CIS) and arrests linked to offences involving cannabis (IBASE).					
Overnight Detention 4hr+	Overnight				
Overnight Custody/Year	Year				
Number of nights in custody	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	01/04/2018 - 30/04/2018
1	340	392	391	404	45
2	33	38	36	41	5
3	5	4	4	3	
Grand Total	378	434	431	448	50

All Arrests linked to crimes relating to cannabis or reasons for arrest or the offence the arrest offence was related to cannabis (so includes those who were not detained overnight).					
Released without charge					
This excludes those charged, released under investigation, issued a FPN or transferred to other forces					
All Arrests	(All)				
Count of CustRf	Column Labels				
Number of nights in custody	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	01/04/2018 - 30/04/2018
NO ACTION	49	42	43	72	8
Grand Total	49	42	43	72	8

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.