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Our Ref: FOI2018/02680

### REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/02680

I write in connection with your request for information received on 17th May. I note you seek access to the following information:

**1 - Do you use live link / video technology between court and police stations to allow the defendant to appear from the police station / custody to court for 1st appearance? If No please skip to question 3.**

**2. If yes to question one. What date did you commence with this type of hearing? How many total cases have appeared by this method to date (if known). Which custody units within your force area currently use this technology? To which courts do defendants currently appear by this method within your force area and if applicable on which days of the week.**

**3. If not currently in place, do you have plans to start using virtual courts within the next 12 months?**

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** - Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below;

1. Hertfordshire Constabulary custody suites are equipped with video link virtual court links.
2. Hearings commenced in February 2012 from a single suite in Watford Police Station. There is total live custody suite coverage for virtual court video equipment across the 2 custody suites in Stevenage and Hatfield. They are routinely used Monday to Friday – and cases have also been done on a Saturday as non-routine hearings. The courts linked to are Hatfield Remand Court, St Albans Magistrates Court and Stevenage Magistrates Court.

4,556 defendants have been presented before the court since April 2013.

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

Sonia Chopra-Miah  
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.