

1st March 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20180207

REQUEST

Could you please disclose the number of cases where a child under the age of criminal responsibility (aged 1 - 9) was linked to a violent crime as a suspect/offender from January 2016 to January 2018, giving the age recorded at the time and where possible the nature of the offence.

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

They were able to provide me with data from which the enclosed spreadsheet has been compiled and the following explanation of her search criteria:

This is a count offences recorded on the CMS crime register and CONNECT, where the offender is recorded with the outcome 'Below the age of criminal responsibility' and where the offender was under the age of 9 at the time the offence was committed, broken down by Home Office offence class and the age of the offender.

Please be advised that due to the low numbers involved in this request the information has been provided on individual tables and in alphabetical and ascending order to anonymise the data and make it suitable for release into the public domain. In this format, it restricts any possibility of identifying individuals.

Disclosure of information on a 'line by line' basis - offences and ages within the date parameters requested may make it possible to identify individuals from that data, and/or other information in the possession of a data controller. It is not therefore available in this format as it would be exempt from release under Section 40(2) *Personal Information* of the FOI Act. I also considered engaging Section 44 (1) *Prohibition on Disclosures*, in respect of Section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 1992 (as amended by Schedule 6 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) which gives victims/offenders of specific offences a guaranteed anonymity.

However, I believe releasing the data in the format explained would mitigate any concerns.

