23rd May 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20191026

REQUEST

I would like information relating to the theft of catalytic converters from vehicles in South Yorkshire for the following periods:
Calendar year 2016 Calendar year 2017 Calendar year 2018 Calendar year 2019 (to date) For each period I would like to know:
1. The number of thefts reported to the police
2. The postcode where the theft occurred
3. The make and (if recorded) the model of vehicle
4. The number of arrests made in connection with thefts of catalytic converters
5. The number of convictions secured for thefts of catalytic converters.

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)

For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data. The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

Please note that South Yorkshire Police does not hold 'conviction' data (outcomes at court), the Ministry of Justice would be better placed to provide you with any further information in this respect, but we have provided Outcomes to assist.

The Administrator provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

Please find attached data and the below explanation.

CMS(ii) DATA

I have provided a count of Offence THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE recorded on CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2016 and 04-Dec-2017, where the Property Sub Class stolen is either VEHICLE ENGINE PARTS or VEHICLE BODY PARTS and the Property class free text field mentions Catalytic (There is no property sub class of Catalytic Converter therefore I have searched the Property Class free text field).

Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the offence outcome, the crime scene district and area and a count of vehicles. Please note – more than one vehicle can be recorded on any offence.

CONNECT DATA

I have provided a count of Offence THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE recorded on CONNECT for Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 30-Apr-2019, where the Property Class is Catalytic Converter or and the Initial MO free text field mentions Catalytic.

Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the offence outcome, the crime scene district and area and a count of vehicles. Please note – more than one vehicle can be recorded on any offence.

We have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS(ii). SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.