

18 October 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20192115

REQUEST

1. Please can you tell me how many of your officers have been assaulted since The Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 came into force on November 13, 2018.
2. Please can you provide examples of the circumstances surrounding some of the most severe assaults and the injuries your officers suffered as a result.
3. Is it the case some have been forced to leave the force, retire early or are on long-term sick leave?
4. Please can you provide a short statement from the chief constable as to whether they believe assaults against officers are on the rise and, if so, an explanation as to why this is the case. Historically, is the most violent things have been?

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Data Returns Officer for assistance with your request. The Crime Management system - CONNECT 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 system and provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet in response and the following explanation regarding her search criteria:

Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 was introduced 13th November 2018, therefore I have provided details of the specified offence from this date –

Assault or assault by beating of a Constable

However, dependant of the severity of the assault and any injuries sustained, then the circumstances may constitute an offence recorded under the Offence Class - Assault with Injury in accordance with the below extract from the Home Office Counting Rules -

104 Assault without Injury on a Constable – Principal Crime – see also General Rules Section F and Annex C.

Example 2: A person assaults a constable and inflicts GBH.

One crime (class 5D OR Sec 20 GBH – 8N depending on intent.)

As requested, I have only provided details of the offences recorded under the specified ACT where the victim is a Police Officer. Therefore this does not include offences recorded in accordance with the above Home Office Counting Rule example above and the results of this request will not reflect all assaults (regardless of the ACT recorded) where the victim was a police officer. The only way to capture all offences regardless of the offence recorded would be to extract the victim's occupation. We can do this for our legacy crime system - CMS(ii), however the occupation field within our recently introduced system - CONNECT is not a mandated requirement, so results may not accurately reflect what is potentially recorded.

In addition, without reviewing the circumstances of offence for each record, we cannot confirm if the victim was acting in the course of their duty.

Question 1

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

COUNT OF OFFENCES RECORDED UNDER ACT Contrary to section 39 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and section 1 of the Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018, WHERE THE VICTIMS OCCUPATION IS POLICE SERVICE WHERE THE OFFENCE WAS RECORDED FOR CONNECT CRIME BETWEEN 05-DEC-2017 AND 30-SEP-2019

FULL OFFENCE TITLE	2018	2019
Assault or assault by beating of a Constable	21	192

OF THE OFFENCE COUNT, BELOW IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE INJURIES SUSTAINED -

INJURIES SUSTAINED	2018	2019
No	19	170
Yes	2	22

Question 2

Our Data Returns Officer has further advised that details in relation to the injuries caused is a non-mandated free text field, therefore results are limited. I have nevertheless provide all the recorded extracts from the free text field 'IP Injuries Details'.

Bruising to leg
None
Cut finger
Pain / potential bruising to chin
Scratches
Bruising to left arm
minor red marks to back of hand
Cut to the lip and swollen cheekbone
Was spat at.
No injuries stated on statement
Marks on Right Shin
Red mark from bite. Skin not broken
Pain and discomfort
Tenderness to left hand and spat in face
Reddening to right shin
Reddening and grazes to left knee and shin
Tenderness/soreness to top of left temple
Swollen thumb

Swollen and cut upper lip. Grazes to left hand.
Broken knuckles on right hand. Bruises to left ribs.

Tenderness

None

Soreness to arm and bottim

2cm cut to thumb extensive bruising to right upper arm chipped tooth and moved tooth grazes to shins

Redding to left forearm

Nail mark on hand

SORENESS TO LEFT CHEEK

Tenderness to the right wrist and reddening

Kicked above left knee

Question 3

Information in respect of the personal circumstances of each officer following the assault is not recorded on our crime system. These details would be held within the officers' personnel records. The only way in which this level of detail can be extracted would be to cross-reference the offence details against the individuals' HR records. Due to the numbers involved, this process is expected to exceed the 18 cost threshold.

For your general information all recorded injuries whether recorded against the specific offence 'Assault or assault by beating of a Constable' or any other Home Office Offence are also recorded on our Human Resources systems, should this be of interest for any future requests under FOI legislation.

Question 4

FOI concerns recorded information. We have provided the outcomes of the requested offence under the FOI Act and as they are recorded on our systems in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules.

If you wish to discuss the results further or are seeking comment, can I suggest that you contact our Media / Communications Department, who may be able to assist or seek the advice of those who can advise commentary as appropriate. Our Media Team can be reached using the following email address:

Media@southyorks.pnn.police.uk