

16th March 2020

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20200669

REQUEST

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information:

The number of Wildlife Crimes under the jurisdiction of your police force in 2015?

The number of Wildlife Crimes under the jurisdiction of your police force in 2016?

The number of Wildlife Crimes under the jurisdiction of your police force in 2017?

The number of Wildlife Crimes under the jurisdiction of your police force in 2018?

The number of Wildlife Crimes under the jurisdiction of your police force in 2019?

If possible, please could you break down the number into the types of offence in each year?

To clarify, wildlife crimes now have the **code 96** under the Home Office's Offence Classification Index and fall under the offence group of **miscellaneous crimes against society**.

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.

They have provided this explanation of their search.

I have searched for offences recorded on the CMS(ii) Crime Register between 01-Jan-2015 and 04-Dec-2017 where the offence was recorded under the Home Office Offence class 96, this has returned 1 offence.

I have searched for offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2019 where the offence was recorded under the Home Office Offence class 96, this has returned 1 offence.

From the information supplied I have checked the two records to see if they are relevant to your request.

Please see the below detail taken from the record on CMS.

Count	Year	Offence Title
1	2014	CONTROL OF TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES - OFFENCES RELATING TO THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF SPECIMENS LISTED IN ANNEX A TO COUNCIL REGULATIONS (EC) NO 338/97

The record on the Connect although recorded as Code 96 - Miscellaneous crimes against society was not a Wildlife Crime and not relevant to your request.