

9<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20210442**

**REQUEST**

*I would like to request the following information:*

- 1. What were the total number of dog thefts reported per month in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020? Please provide a month-by-month breakdown.*
- 2. What was the outcome of each reported dog theft crime per month from 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020? (e.g. arrests, charges, suspect identified, lack of evidence).*
- 3. What number of dogs reported stolen were returned to their owners in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?*

**CLARIFICATION**

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/dog-theft-ref-20190223/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/dogscat-theft-ref-20180368/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/animal-theft-ref-20180843/>

The following links will also provide you with data:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/stolen-pets-ref-20190667/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/animal-theft-ref-20171757/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/dog-theft-ref-20200531/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/dog-theft-ref-20202121/>

**FROM THE REQUESTER**

*After viewing the entries which you supplied in the email below, I would like to refine my information request to:*

- 1. What were the total number of dog thefts reported per month in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018? Please provide a monthly breakdown.*
- 2. What were the total number of dog thefts reported in October 2020, November 2020, and December 2020?*
- 3. What number of dogs reported stolen were returned to their owners in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020?*

## 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.

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

*Please see the attached data and the below explanation.*

### CONNECT data -

*I have provided a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 04-DEC-2017 and 28-FEB-2021 where the Property Status is Stolen or Stolen\Recovered and Property Class 3 is DOG. Of the offence count, I have provided a breakdown of the offence outcome.*

*I have also provided the location of the crime if the MO Desc 1 is Location, then I have provided the MO Desc 2 detail.*

*Please note –*

- The recording of the Premises Type and MO Desc are not a mandated requirement within CONNECT, therefore some offence are not recorded with this information.*
- Property Status is not a mandated requirement and I would suggest that this is a not reliable field to use to identify if the dog has been '**recovered**'.*
- There is no requirement to record the breed of dog stolen, therefore the Initial MO free text field would have to be reviewed at record level to potentially identify this detail, however this may not be recorded.*
- For offences recorded for CONNECT Crime it is not possible to accurately quantify property classes as the 'Quantity' field is a not mandated requirement and therefore, not recorded for all offences.*

### CMS(II) Data –

*I have provided a count of offences where the Property Sub Class is Dogs and the Property Status is Stolen or Recovered where the offence was recorded for the CMS(II) Crime*

*Register between 01-Jan-2015 and 04-Dec-2017. Of the offence count, I have provided the offence outcome, crime scene premises type and the property status & quantity.*

*Please note for both datasets –*

- *Offences are recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules – General Rules - The Principal Crime Rule (1 of 1) - IF THE SEQUENCE OF CRIMES IN AN INCIDENT, OR A COMPLEX CRIME, CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF CRIME, THEN COUNT THE MOST SERIOUS.*
- *I have included the single record level data extract for both crime systems, should ICU wish to review to potentially identify the breed of dog, Please do not release this as this contains sensitive data.*

**Further** - I have manually checked each record provided by the Administrator and have provided the count of Breeds by year. As advised above this is not a mandated requirement so the list of Breeds and count on Tab 3 is a list of the detail when it was recorded in the MO field.