

16th March 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20210413

REQUEST

1.I would like you to provide me with the number of fines the force handed out under section 3 (begging) of the Vagrancy Act 1824 between the years 2015 - 2020.

2.I would like the figure of each individual fine in pounds sterling, with the year in which the fine was handed out indicated.

3.I would also like the total number of times individuals were charged under section 3 or section 4 of the Vagrancy Act (regardless of whether they were fined or not) during this same time frame:

2015 - 2020. It would be helpful to have section 3 charges separated out from section 4 charges in the data.

Q1 & 2

I firstly contacted our Central Ticket Office with your request, they advised this Offence is not covered by a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Further our four districts, Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley & Doncaster, also said they do not issue or record this type of data.

Q3

Custody Performance & Governance Unit has provided the following data to assist with your request.

Connect data:

FOI LH 20210413- Charges/Prosecutions under s3 & 4 of Vagrancy Act

Number of charges/prosecutions following arrest, since CONNECT go-live (05/12/2017).

Year	Count Of Custodies			
	s3 Begging in a public place		s4 Vagrancy related offences	
	Charge	Postal	Charge	Postal
2018	8		3	
2019	4	1	1	2
2020	1		6	2
2021	1			

and "Dim Committed On Date"."Committed On Date" BETWEEN date '2017-12-05' AND current_date

and Disposal Type is equal to **Charge , Charge - Postal , Postal Requisition (applied from case) , Reported For Process**

and CASE WHEN Disposal Offence CCCJS Code IN ('VG24003', 'VG24015', 'VG24005', 'VG24013', 'VG24047') THEN 's3 Begging in a public place' WHEN Disposal Offence CCCJS Code IN ('VG24021', 'VG24017', 'VG24018') THEN 's4 Vagrancy related offences' ELSE 'Other' END is equal to **s3 Begging in a public place , s4 Vagrancy related offences**

On 5th December 2017 South Yorkshire Police implemented a new recording system called Connect, from which the above table has been extracted. Prior to that our Custody Handling System (CHS) recorded Arrest Data. For the Arrest data prior to 5th December 2017 please see the attached spreadsheet.

The two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly, and therefore is in two different formats. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.