

FOI Request: 446/2018:

Request:

1. For all crimes reported in the calendar year 2018 whose outcomes you have classed as 'investigation complete; no suspect identified', please provide the date on which the investigation started and the date on which it was classed as 'investigation complete; no suspect identified'.
2. If the investigation was started and concluded on the same day, if possible please state in addition the number of man-hours spent working on the case.
3. Please break this data down by these crime types and if possible the community safety partnership or local authority in which the crime took place:
 - Bicycle theft
 - Burglary
 - Criminal damage and arson
 - Drugs
 - Other crime
 - Other theft
 - Possession of weapons
 - Public order
 - Robbery
 - Shoplifting
 - Theft from the person
 - Vehicle crime
 - Violence and sexual offences

Clarification:

Question 3 is referring to all types of offences and is not specific only to the categories listed above.

Response 1:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested. Please see the attached Excel Spreadsheet containing the reported date and detected date of each relevant crime.

Response 2:

I can confirm that there is no information held by Dyfed-Powys Police due to the fact that 'man hours' is not specifically recorded as it would form part of a Police Officers standard duties.

Response 3:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, as outlined below.

Offence Type	Total number of crimes recorded
Abuse of children through Sexual Exploitation	1
Aggravated vehicle taking	3
Arson - Endangering life	1
Arson - not endangering life	34
Assault - actual bodily harm	49
Assault with Intent to cause serious Harm	1
Attempted Burglary - Business and Community	25
Attempted Burglary - Residential	53
Blackmail	11
Burglary - Business and Community	93
Burglary - Residential	161
Burglary in a Building (non-dwelling)	1
Causing danger to road user	12
Causing Intentional harassment alarm and distress	24
Common Assault	45
Criminal damage other	190
Criminal Damage to a building	54
Criminal Damage to a Building other than a dwelling	82
Criminal Damage to a Dwelling	173
Criminal Damage to vehicle	519
Cruelty to Children/Young Persons	3
Dangerous Dog	12
Endangering Life	1
Endangering life (causing danger to road user)	6
Exposure and Voyeurism	6
Fear or provocation of violence	14
Forgery or Use of Drug Prescription	1
Fraud Incident	21
Interference with a motor vehicle	27
Making off without payment	31
Malicious Communications	31
Modern Slavery	2
Obscene Publications	17
Other Criminal Damage	42
Other Forgery	5
Other Notifiable offences	2
Possess Drugs with Intent to supply.	1
Possession of controlled drug	4
Possession of Controlled Drugs (excluding Cannabis)	2
Protection from harassment	33
Public order - Harassment, alarm or distress	1
Public order Act - Affray	1
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Assault without injury	1
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage	3
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage to a building	2

Racially/Religiously Aggravated Criminal Damage to Vehicle	2
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Harassment	1
Racially/Religiously Aggravated Public Fear, Alarm or Distress	4
Rape of a Male aged 16 or over	1
Robbery of Personal Property	4
Sexual Activity involving a child under 13	5
Sexual Activity involving a child under 16	6
Sexual Assault on a Female aged 13 or over	3
Sexual Assault on a Female Child under 13	2
Sexual Assault on a Male aged 13 & over	1
Sexual Assault on a Male Child under 13	1
Sexual Grooming	1
Stalking	2
Taking a vehicle without consent	35
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	149
Theft from a person (pickpocket)	3
Theft from an automatic machine or meter	3
Theft from employee	1
Theft from motor vehicle	4
Theft from shops and stalls	168
Theft from the person (pickpocket)	13
Theft in a dwelling	37
Theft of a motor vehicle	1
Theft of a pedal cycle	30
Theft of a vehicle	4
Theft of Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle	1
Theft other	559
Threats or Possession with Intent to commit criminal damage	5
Threats to kill	4
Wildlife Incident	6
Wound or grievous bodily harm	2
Grand Total	2859

Divisional Area	Total number of crimes recorded
Carmarthenshire	1039
Ceredigion	396
Ceredigion	1
Pembrokeshire	728
Powys	695
Grand Total	2859

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon, Section 17 of Freedom of Information Act requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which:

- a) States that fact
- b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- c) State (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies

Dyfed Powys Police Force can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information relevant to your request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) Information relating to Security bodies

Section 24(2) National Security

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement

Section 23 is an absolute exemption and as such no public interest test is required. Confirming or denying the existence of whether any other information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out within Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information applied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.

Sections 24 and 31 are qualified exemptions and as such there is a requirement to articulate the harm and conduct a test of the public interest in confirmation or denial.

Overall Harm for Section 24 and Section 31:

The threat of terrorism cannot be ignored. It should be recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. The UK faces a sustained threat from violent terrorists and extremists which has increased significantly during the current year.

Confirmation or denial that terrorism offences have or haven't occurred would undermine the individual force CT units which would consequently be detrimental to our ability to be able to deal with the ongoing terrorist threat we face. By providing the number of terrorism offences would enable offenders to carry out a comparison of other forces across the country and enable terrorists to build a picture of intelligence relating to terrorists and terrorist cells. It is felt that the disclosure of this information would allow inferences to be drawn about our force level CT activity.

Confirmation or denial would also indicate levels of policing activity at individual force level and that information could allow individuals to exploit what they might consider to be 'softer,' or what appears to be less active or resourced areas, by analysing patterns of police activity and deployments over time, ultimately to avoid detection. This would infer CT policing resources and by analysing similar data from around the country we might allow criminals to understand national CT policing activity. For example, this would enable terrorists to make judgements concerning their preferred travel routes where they perceive there to be a greater vulnerability, lower staff levels and lesser probability of being apprehended.

Although the information relates to the release of crime statistics, they relate to an extremely sensitive policing area, that confirmation of whether information is or isn't held would be too detailed and likely to frustrate Special Branch activity in response to changing terrorist travel patterns. Ultimately, this constant disruption would reduce the effectiveness and efficiency of Special Branch/CT units, increase the advantage to the terrorist and increase the risk and vulnerability to the security of the UK from terrorist attack.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for Section 24:

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and by confirming or denying that this information is held would allow the public to see where money is being spent and know that forces are doing as much as they can to combat terrorism.

Factors favouring neither confirming or denying for Section 24:

To confirm or deny that this information is held would render security measures less effective which would compromise ongoing or future operations to protect the security and infrastructure of the UK. The risk of harm to the public would be elevated if areas of the UK which appear vulnerable were identified which would also provide the opportunity for terrorist planning. Ongoing or future operations to protect the security and infrastructure of the UK would be compromised as terrorists could map the level of counter-terrorist activity across the country, providing them with the knowledge of individual force capability as well as valuable knowledge concerning the vulnerability of individual force areas.

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for Section 31:

To confirm or deny that this information is held would make members of the public more aware of the threat of terrorism and allow them to take steps to protect themselves and families. Improved public awareness may lead to more intelligence being submitted to police about possible acts of terrorism as members of the public will be more observant to suspicious activity which in turn may result in a reduction of crime. The Home Office regularly publish national statistical data on terrorism.

Factors favouring neither confirming or denying of Section 31:

To confirm or deny that the requested information is held could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder the Police force's ability to prevent and detect terrorist crimes. The threat of terrorism will increase as more crimes are committed as a result of terrorists gaining knowledge about the capabilities of individual forces and therefore the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised as terrorists identify vulnerable areas and target and exploit these areas resulting in the public being in fear of more terrorist activity occurring. There would be an impact on police resources from confirming or denying that reports to police have been made, as vulnerable forces may need to increase their resources to reassure and protect the surrounding community.

Balance Test

The Home Office regularly publishes data in relation to terrorism arrests and charges. I have supplied the link to the information supplied by the Home Office below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/counter-terrorism-statistics>

To confirm or deny that the police have been notified of suspected terrorist activity at force level would start to indicate levels of policing activity at force level which could allow individuals to exploit what may be considered as less active or resourced areas, by assessing patterns of police activity and deployments over time, ultimately to avoid detection.

The security of the country is of paramount importance. The police will not divulge any information that would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine national security. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing, and in this case providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by terrorist activity, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and the integrity of police investigations and operations in the highly sensitive subject of terrorism.

As much as there is a public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security, this will be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Police force's capabilities of combating terrorism are sensitive issues of intelligence value to the terrorist and therefore it is our opinion that for these issues the balancing test for confirming or denying that this information is held, is not made out.

However, this should not be taken as necessarily indicating that any other information that would meet your request exists or does not exist.

It should be noted that as a result of the systems adopted by Dyfed-Powys Police in relation to the recording of such information that the information released may or may not be accurate.

Furthermore, it should also be noted that Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.