



Heddlu Police

DYFED-POWYS

FOI Reference: 535/2018

Request:

I am seeking to obtain information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, regarding cases of witness intimidation – as specified under Section 51 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. I want to access data held by the Force which outlines the number of referrals, investigations and successfully prosecuted cases of witness intimidation. That is, when an attempt is made to threaten or persuade a witness not to give evidence to the police or courts, or to give evidence in a way that is favourable to the defendant.

As you will be aware, Section 51 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 lists two relevant offences: s.51(1) creates an offence directed at acts against a person assisting in the investigation of an offence or is a witness or potential witness or juror or potential juror whilst an investigation or trial is in progress; and s.51(2) creates an offence directed at acts against a person who assisted in an investigation of an offence or who was a witness or juror after an investigation or trial has been concluded.

Could you please provide the following data, broken down by year, starting from January 1st, 2014 to the date this FOI request is processed:

1. Number of allegations of witness intimidation received by the police force
2. Number of investigations into witness intimidation by the police force
3. Number of individuals charged for witness intimidation
4. Number of individuals successfully prosecuted for witness intimidation

Clarification:

With regards to Q1 & Q2, when you mention "Allegations" and "Investigations", are you referring to Crimes?

Clarification received

I am referring to crimes. The reason I phrased the request as such, is because it is my understanding that for a crime to be recorded it must be proven to have occurred - therefore the allegation and subsequent investigation to identify whether witness intimidation has indeed occurred. Please do correct me if I'm mistaken.

Further Clarification:

Successful Prosecution – Do you mean Found Guilty

Reply:

Yes, I do mean found guilty.

OFFICIAL

Response 1 & 2:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested the details of which are as follows:

Year	Number Witness Intimidation Crimes recorded
2014	20
2015	16
2016	24
2017	29
2018 to 13.07.18	23

Response 3:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested the details of which are as follows:

Year	Number Charged for Witness Intimidation
2014	16
2015	5
2016	6
2017	5
2018 to 13.07.18	7

Response 4:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested the details of which are as follows:

Year	Number Found Guilty Witness Intimidation
2014	9
2015	4
2016	4
2017	4
2018 to 13.07.18	1

It should be noted that owing to the systems adopted by Dyfed-Powys Police in relation to the recording of such matters the information provided may or may not be accurate.

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 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.

Disclosed under FOI on 07.08.18