

Request Reference: 3212/20

1) The number of a) arrests and b) charges made by the force under the Vagrancy Act 1824 in each of the last five calendar years (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and so far in 2020), broken down by offence.

I am not seeking information on the prostitution and indecency clauses of Section 3; accordingly, please break down charges and arrests for the following Section 3 offences if possible:

- *Wandering abroad to beg or gather alms*
- *Placing self in public place to beg*
- *Procuring child to beg*
- *Person other than prostitute being idle and disorderly*
- *Causing child to beg*
- *Collecting alms or endeavouring to procure charitable contribution by false pretence*
- *Wandering abroad and exposing wound or deformity to obtain alms*
- *Persistently beg*
- *Sleeping out*

See following tables

TABLE 1

Count of arrests for offences under the Vagrancy Act 1824, by Offence:

Offence	Arrest Year					Grand Total
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	
Begging and wandering abroad - second / subsequent occasion.	4	1				5
Begging and wandering abroad.	9	7				16
Begging in a public place - second or subsequent occasion.	32	5	2	1		40
Begging in a public place.	90	60	18	37	5	210
Persistently beg in a public place (second or subsequent offence) - Vagrancy Act 1824.	4	2				6
Resisting constable in execution of duty	9	11	10	9		39
Vagrant - being found in or upon enclosed premises.	58	45	32	36	2	173
Grand Total	206	131	62	83	7	489

*2020 to 31 January

TABLE 2

Count of arrests for offences under the Vagrancy Act 1824, by Outcome:

Outcome	Arrest Year					Grand Total
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	
Cautioned	13	11	3	9		36
Charged	143	68	28	43	6	288
No Further Action	49	49	31	25	1	155
Police Bail	1	1				2
Postal Charge/Requisition		2		6		8
Grand Total	206	131	62	83	7	489

*2020 to 31 January

2) The number of individuals arrested under the Vagrancy Act 1824 in each of the last five calendar years (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and so far in 2020) who:

a. Were listed as having no fixed abode / no fixed address

See TABLE 3 below

b. Were subsequently charged with an offence

See TABLE 3 below

c. Were issued a fine

The cost of locating and retrieving the information would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12(1) of the FOI Act 2000. For West Midlands Police, the appropriate limit is set at £450, as prescribed by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, S.I. 3244. See attached for further details.

TABLE 3

Count of arrests for offences under the Vagrancy Act 1824 (as per TABLE 1 above), where person arrested had no fixed abode / no fixed address, by Outcome:

Outcome	Year					Grand Total
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020*	
Cautioned	3	2		1		6
Charged	41	21	7	9	1	79
No Further Action	8	10	10	5		33
Police Bail	1					1
Postal Charge/Requisition		1				1
Grand Total	53	34	17	15	1	120

*2020 to 31 January

3) Please provide the amount of each fine given for offences under the Vagrancy Act 1824 in the last five calendar years (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and so far in 2020).

The cost of locating and retrieving the information would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12(1) of the FOI Act 2000. For West Midlands Police, the appropriate limit is set at £450, as prescribed by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, S.I. 3244. See attached for further details.