

03 October 2017

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20171585**

**REQUEST**

***I am aware that there is no actual crime of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) but I would like information on the perpetrators of any group CSE / ICST (Internal Child Sex Trafficking) that has occurred in your Force area. In this case, I understand group CSE to involve 2 or more perpetrators.***

***The Offences that I am interested in are sections 5-15, sections 47-50 and section 58 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.***

***I would like the following figures on each investigation / Operation since 2004:***

- ***The outcome for each of the Operations (outcome codes are sufficient)***
- ***the age of each of the perpetrators (age bands are sufficient)***
- ***the gender of the perpetrators***
- ***the occupation of the perpetrators (listed separately if concerned about data protection)***
- ***the nationality of the offenders***
- ***the ethnicity of the offenders (self and officer-defined would be ideal)***

**RESPONSE**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a.states that fact,
- b.specifies the exemption in question and
- c.states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

**Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

I contacted our Crime Management System (CMS) Administrator for assistance with your request. To fully address your request would exceed the Appropriate Limit.

*On 01-Apr-2016 a national requirement for all forces to flag offences involving CSE with a specified Aggravating Factor was introduced. However, a CSE aggravating factor (0066) was introduced to CMS in Force in January 2013; prior to this date we cannot easily identify offences on CMS, which would now be potentially be recognised as CSE. A review of the circumstances of each offences would have to be undertaken and would exceed costs, given the requester had asked for data recorded since 2004.*

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

[https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs\\_of\\_compliance\\_exceeds\\_appropriate\\_limit.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)

**Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future .**

The CMS Administrator has provided me with the enclosed data and following explanation of her search criteria/results.

Please note disclosure of information on a 'line by line' basis would make it possible to identify individuals from that data, and/or other information in the possession of a data controller.

It is not therefore available in this format as it would be exempt from release under Section 40(2) Personal Information of the FOI Act. I also considered engaging Section 44 (1) Prohibition on Disclosures, in respect of Section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 1992 (as amended by Schedule 6 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) which gives victims of specific offences a guaranteed anonymity. However, I believe giving the data in a tabled format will mitigate this concern.

*I have included a count of offences only recorded under the specified act and section, where the offence was recorded on the CMS crime register with an Aggravating factor of CSE between 01-Jan-2013 – 31-Aug-2017.*

*Of the count of offences, I have provided a count of offenders where the offender status is Accused. I have only included offences where an accused offender is recorded.*

*Of the count of Accused offenders, I have included a table for each of the following –  
Offender outcome  
Offender Age(at the time of offence) & Gender  
Offender Occupation (at the time of offence)*