

4 February 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20190161

REQUEST

How many planned unlicensed music events - "illegal raves" have been recorded in the last 5 years, in Sheffield. Please can the figures be given per year. So for example, 2014 = X, 2015 = X and so on.

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(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

There is no crime category 'illegal raves'. The only way in which we could identify data in relation to your request is to review records within our Incident Management System. This system records the majority of calls to South Yorkshire Police requiring the specific deployment of police resources, whether reported by members of the public via 999 or 101 or 'happened upon' by officers and staff in the course of their duties. Each record is a log of events as the incident progresses or unfolds, with very few search fields to extract any meaningful data. As there is no generic incident title that meets the criteria of your request, the only way in which we would be able to extract any recorded data is to search for incidents where the keyword 'rave' and "music event" is mentioned within the free text areas of the incident logs.

We have received a similar request to this in the recent past and we know following a search for the period between 1st Jan 2015 and 12th Apr 2018 for example, where the phrase ' RAVE ' or ' MUSIC EVENT ' appears in the log returned, 394 incidents were returned. For your interest these figures break down as follows:

2015 - 140

2016 - 110

2017 - 129

2018 - 15

In order to establish whether they relate to 'illegal raves' each incident would need to be manually reviewed together with follow-up enquiries with the officers in the case to establish whether any 'illegal' activity took place which resulted in any arrests or recorded crimes. Reviewing hundreds of records in this manner would far exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

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. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

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