

7 March 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20190210

REQUEST

I would like to know the number of times the force has passed the details of alleged domestic abuse victims to the Home Office for the purpose of immigration enforcement. I would like the information for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

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

I approached our PVP (Protecting Vulnerable People) Strategic Governance Unit for assistance with your request, this is the most likely area of the force likely to hold information in relation to your request. The DARA Risk Assessor Manager has advised that her team is unable to assist. The only way in which we are likely to be able to find any recorded data in relation to your request therefore is to manually review all domestic abuse records. Given that we can receive over 9000 reports of domestic violence in a six month period, we would have to review each of these to determine whether any related information is held at all. This process 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