

6<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20210556**

**REQUEST**

I would like to obtain the following information please.

- 1) *The number of officers currently employed by your force who have declared criminal convictions*
- 2) *Details of the criminal conviction in each case, with brief explanatory note where necessary*
- 3) *The rank of the officer in each case*
- 4) *The date of the conviction in each case*

**AND (if different i.e. criminal convictions not declared but since discovered by your force/ obtained during employment)**

- 5) *The total number of officers currently employed by your force who have criminal convictions (if different to the answer from question 1)*
- 6) *Details of the criminal conviction in each case, with brief explanatory note where necessary (if different to the answer from question 2)*
- 7) *The rank of the officer in each case (if different to the answer from question 3)*
- 8) *The date of the conviction in each case (if different to the answer from question 4)*

**RESPONSE**

I approached our Vetting Manager for assistance with your request.

Using the criteria above the Vetting Manager has provided me with the data which meets the criteria of your request.

As such, I can confirm that South Yorkshire Police holds information relating to the criteria of your request, but having reviewed this in detail, I am not prepared to disclose this to you in full.

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 40 (2) – Personal Information**

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption.

Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. This may take an obvious form of 'personal information' such as a name but can also include information which, if aggregated, can pinpoint an individual.

With this in mind, whilst not explicitly naming individuals, the cumulative effect of a full disclosure i.e. detail of the conviction, rank of Officer and date of conviction in each case, would present the very real possibility of individuals involved being identified.

However, I am prepared to disclose most of the requested data in uncorrelated format, as below:-

Q1. Five Serving Officers with Convictions

Q2. The individual convictions are:

Common Assault

Drive over the prescribed alcohol limit (OPL)

Sale of alcohol to person under 18yrs

Theft

Threatening Behaviour and Assault (Convicted at one hearing)

Q3. 1x Detective Constable; 3 x Police Constable; 1 x Special Constable

Regarding the second part of your request relating to Q5 – Q8 – No information held.