

2 July 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20191415

REQUEST

The number of incidents officers have responded to where the initial incident detail includes the word "crossbow" or "cross bow".

Please provide a breakdown stating the month of each incident, a summary of the initial report any crimes recorded (specifying the type of offence).

I would like this information for each of the financial years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19

RESPONSE

I approached our Incident Management System Administrator for assistance with your request. He was able to provide the raw data from which the enclosed spreadsheet has been compiled in response.

Please note there is a limited number of categories/ fields from which to collate 'bulk' data without exceeding the cost threshold.

Information in relation to the month and a summary of the initial report is exempt under the following:

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. Information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed into the public domain, effectively to the world, not just to one individual. Although I would not be explicitly naming the individuals involved, due to the relatively low numbers involved summarising the initial report and/or declaring the month of each specific incident may well lead to the identification of those involved. This would be breaching the right to privacy afforded to persons under the Data Protection Act 1998.

With this in mind, I have disclosed as much detail as possible without compromising the identity of anyone involved.