

3rd August 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20201549

REQUEST

Can you please give me a month-by-month breakdown showing thefts from hospitals and/or NHS trust in London over the last two years?

If not, can it please provide the same details for the past 12 months?

Can you list the item stolen, its value, the victim - patient, visitor, date etc -and any additional information.

CLARIFICATION

Please could you clarify the following point(s): -

You are asking for Crime Stats in London is this a typo error? . South Yorkshire Police cover Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley. Can you clarify the area you require the stats for?

Sorry, yes, I did mean South Yorkshire, Thanks for getting back to me.

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

In regard to a breakdown by patient/visitor/staff member etc and a value of items stolen. This type of data is not a mandatory field in the Offence record. The Crime System Administrator has advised the following:

We cannot determine if the victim was a Patient, Visitor, staff member etc. without reviewing the Investigation Summary & Initial MO free text fields at record level and even upon review, such detail may not be recorded.

For CONNECT data it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the monetary value as both the 'Property Stolen Value' and 'Quantity' fields are not mandated requirements, and therefore not recorded for all offences.

In addition, if both 'Property Stolen Value' and 'Quantity' are recorded, then we are not certain whether the value recorded relates to multiple items or individual items i.e. Property – Drill, Value 300, Quantity 2 (we cannot determine if the value is 300 per Drill or 150 per Drill)

In essence, retrieval of this data would require manually checking each offence record in free text fields to see if this data was inputted in the first instance, and then further checking with the officer and checking their pocket notebooks/paperwork for any detail that will provide this breakdown.

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

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 .

I had approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

Please see the attached data and below explanation.

I have included a count of offences recorded between 01-Jul-2018 and 30-Jun-2020 for CONNECT Crime where the Home Office Offence Class is Theft or Robbery and the Premises Type is Hospital\Hospice or MO DESC 1 IS Location and MO DESC 3 is Hospital - Public/Private. Not Waiting Room or Waiting Room - Doctor, Dentist, Hospital. NOT Railway.

Of the offence count, I have provided a list of the Property Class 1, 2 and 3 is the Property Status was Stolen or Stolen\Recovered.

Please note –

- We cannot distinguish between the Premises Type of Hospital\Hospice without reviewing the circumstances of the offences as record level, therefore this dataset may include offences committed at a Hospice.*

- *The data is reliant of the said Premises Type or MO DESC being recorded, however these are not mandated fields so may not accurately reflect what is potentially recorded for CONNECT Crime.*
- *This data is only where the offence type is recorded in the said Home Office Offence Classes and this may not include details of any thefts that have been recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules – General Rules - **The Principal Crime Rule (1 of 1)** - IF THE SEQUENCE OF CRIMES IN AN INCIDENT, OR A COMPLEX CRIME, CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF CRIME, THEN COUNT THE MOST SERIOUS*