

23rd August 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20211437

REQUEST

1/ A list of crimes involving use of OnlyFans, the content subscription service, reported since January 1st 2021 up until the date this response is answered.

Please provide a breakdown of offence by date of the offence, type of crime (e.g. child sexual exploitation, sexual assault etc.), age of alleged victim, and a brief description of what occurred where known. Please also state if there has been a charge when known.

RESPONSE

I 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 'crime'.

I can confirm that South Yorkshire Police holds information relating to the criteria of your request, but 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 exemptions apply to the disclosure of the information:

Section 40(2) Personal Information.

Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings conducted by the Local Authority

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 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.

Due to the low numbers and recent time parameters involved it would be unfair to disclose all this information under the Freedom of Information Act, as it would effectively be releasing it to the world and this would breach the right to privacy afforded to persons under the Data Protection Act 2018

Harm

Any material published and provided within a response could be potentially viewed by anyone who wished to see it. Disclosing details particularly due to the relatively low numbers involved and very recent time parameters could be viewed by those involved as a breach in confidentiality. This could jeopardise the work done within communities to increase the public's confidence in reporting and giving assistance to the Force and may affect continuing police investigations which could then compromise any further lines of enquiry

and the integrity of any investigations.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

Section 30 – Favouring disclosure

- There is a public interest in the transparency and openness of policing procedures, and this would provide assurance that South Yorkshire Police is appropriately and effectively dealing with crime.
- The public would have a better understanding of how information is collated and used to investigate such cases and could lead to more people coming forward with similar incidents.

Section 30 – Favouring non- Disclosure

- Any current and/or future investigations could be compromised, by the release into the wider public domain of details no matter how small or large concerning this type of Offence and situation.

Balancing Test

I have carefully considered your request for information. The key test when considering the public interest is to establish whether in all the circumstances of the request, the public interest in disclosing the information is not outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption

I am of the opinion that there are a number of reasons for withholding some of the information. Due such specific details and the relatively recent time parameters this may impact any investigations and enquiries still ongoing.

The police force will not divulge any type information that would compromise investigations or place at risk members of the public or officers.

As we have already stated, a Freedom of Information request is not just a release to the person making the request, but also to the world. It cannot be clear at present what effect disclosures made by a Freedom of Information response may have upon such enquiries.

With this in mind, I am prepared to disclose some details without triggering any of the above exemptions.

I have reviewed the data provided by the administrator and can provided the following data:

Offences - 01/01/2021 to 19/08/2021.

Stalking and Harassment

Count

= 3

Outcomes of the count Count

14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified: Crime Confirmed But The Victim Either Declines Or Unable To Support Further Police Investigation To Identify The Offender

= 2

Not Recorded

= 1

3 Victims all over 18