

20th October 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202053

REQUEST

I am writing to request the following dataset as an Excel spreadsheet showing: rows showing the number of Violence Against the Person and Sexual Crimes (both sub-categorised by the Home Office Counting Rules reference, as opposed to the code number) against the columns showing the racial classification of those arrested.

Would you please be able to show these figures in full for 2018 and a second table for 2019 please?

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 order to assist me with your request, I contacted our Crime Administrator, who conducted a search of our Connect System. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She has explained while we hold data and stats by the Offence, to retrieve a further breakdown by suspect detail of i.e.ethnicity, it would require a manual search of each record to check the data is inputted. If each of the 99131 investigations returned in her search were to be manually reviewed, the process would take well over 18 hours' work, and therefore would be unacheivable under the FOI guidelines.

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 .

The Administrator has provided the following information, which may be useful to you:

Included is a count of offences recorded under the Home Office Offence Group – Sexual Offences and Violence Against the Person where the offence was recorded between 01-Jan-2018 and 31-Dec-2019 for Connect Crime.