

4th March 2022

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 2022-356**

**REQUEST**

*This is an information request relating to the seizure of dogs under the provisions of the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991).*

*Please include the information for each of the following periods; 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21:*

- *The annual cost to the police force for seizing dogs under the Dangerous Dogs Act (1991) broken down by the cost of kennelling, the cost of veterinary treatment, and the cost of destroying the dogs*
- *The number of dogs seized under the act per year*

**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(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

I approached our Contracts Administrator for assistance with your request. She has advised that whilst there is a budget code for all kennelling costs, she would be unable to break these costs down into separate elements such as veterinary, euthanasia costs etc without exceeding the 18 hour cost threshold. This would require a full review all invoices over the three financial years, extracting and collating the relevant costs manually.

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. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

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](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, I have supplied information relating to the rest of your request as a gesture of goodwill. 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.**

Please find below the amount spent on all kennelling costs in the last three financial years

21-22	£156,367
20-21	£127,147
19-20	£126,335

The number of dogs seized under the act per year

- 21-22 123 to date
- 20-21 81
- 19-20 74