



Our Ref: 002770/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 16 September 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 19/08/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

I am a fire investigator and also design, deliver and assess on fire investigation. My request is as follows for five years data up to April 2020 (presume these follow the fiscal year) or later if released.

1. Number of police officers who have suffered smoke inhalation from entering building fires inc domestic fires? I have checked the National Statistics for injuries to police officers, but cannot find anything related to smoke inhalation.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

This is not something we collate or count separately. To obtain the information it would be necessary to manually check each report/log during the specified timescale to see if any information relative to your request is held. To do this a Section 12 exemption under FOI would be engaged.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Leicestershire 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 exemption(s) applicable to the information are as follows.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

In order to retrieve the information you have requested would therefore be in excess of the 18 hours specified by the Home Office as the time period for which a police force should allocate to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, the current regulatory limit which has been set by the Secretary of State for public

authorities, which includes the police service, is £450 for the marginal costs which are the costs of finding, sorting, editing or redacting information and disbursements (printing, photocopying etc). The Association of Chief Police Officers have agreed a national standard of an hourly rate of £25 is to be charged for the time taken. In essence therefore, the costs equate to 18 hours work per request. It will be apparent therefore that within the time frame of 18 hours it will not be possible to extract the information to answer any of your questions.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under s12(1) as the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate level" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Leicestershire Police cannot recall any big building fires where police officers entered before Fire Crews made safe. There would be no reason for them to do so. There is no information held regarding any injuries where police officers/ staff were first on scene and might have entered before fire crew. (For eg. the Hinckley Road Fire/explosion)

No information is collated/held in our Occupational Health Department.

The only recent fire where there may have been smoke inhalation was the King Power helicopter crash and that was not a building.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer

Leicestershire Police

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