



Our Ref: 002839/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 25 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 25/08/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *How many ABE video interviews have been conducted with victims of CCB?*
2. *What advice/guidance is given to responders by your force in relation to a Section 9 statement vs an ABE video interview for CCB offences and other domestic abuse related offences?*

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: -

In relation to question 2 of your request, the guidance is the same regardless of the offence as it depends on whether or not the person fits the criteria to have an interview conducted by VRI. Whether it is a VRI or statement and is their choice as to which one they want to do. It is not for the police officer to decide which type of statement is taken. The teaching follows the Achieving Best Evidence Guidance 2012 and all other associated documents after this that have amended certain elements.

Information relation to question one of your request would invoke Section 12.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

The information you have requested is held within the working sheets of each occurrence, therefore to provide the information you have requested would require a manual review of each instance of CCB in order to identify those that meet the requirements of your request. This would take in excess of 18 hours.

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 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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