



Our Ref: 003134/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Linda Dempsey, Information Management

Date 23 September 2020

Dear Mr Ballet

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 21/09/2020 in which you requested the following information: -

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?

I can confirm, pursuant to s1(1)(a) of FOIA that this Force does hold the information you have requested.

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.

Leicestershire Police are unable to provide the information you seek. We have checked our custody records between the dates specified to obtain the ethnicity of the offender. We were able to find a limited number but for the remainder it would be necessary to manually read all reports of which there are over 37,000 for the time specified to ascertain the detailed information.

Unfortunately, I am unable to suggest how you could refine your request for us to provide useful information for you.

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 the 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

Linda Dempsey

Linda Dempsey
Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police