



Our Ref: 003254/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 21 October 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 30/09/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

As part of an academic study into the utilisation of forensic science disciplines in casework in the UK, we are making a Freedom of Information request as follows.

Can you please indicate the number of cases per year where the following evidence types were used a) in-house (where the testing was done by police staff on police premises) or b) outsourced (where the testing was done by a forensic science provider or another external company or individual)?

Can you please provide this data for the past 5 years (2015 through to 2019)?

1. DNA
2. Body fluids
3. Fingerprints
4. Marks and traces
5. Toxicology

If you are unable to separate out the data to discipline specific levels, then can you please advise as to how much is spent on outsourcing forensic services and how much is spent on in-house testing?

The purpose of this study is to identify whether the highest utilised discipline is receiving sufficient investment and support or whether a discipline that is utilised infrequently is receiving a disproportionately higher support.

It is our intention that once this study is complete, that this will be shared publicly. If you wish to receive a copy of the final report, please let us know and we will share this with you once complete. Please provide an appropriate email address for us to send the report to.

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: -

	Contracted Out Expenditure (£)		
	EM Forensics - External Forensics Services Contract	East Midlands Forensics Contribution to our share of the shared service	Various Suppliers
Year			
2019/20	707,731	1,159,976	1,995
2018/19	657,782	1,125,352	739
2017/18	690,940	1,112,985	100,111
2016/17		1,091,142	976,650
2015/16		906,130	821,238
2014/15		852,702	617,101
2013/14			735,369
2012/13			922,820
2011/12			869,287
2010/11			1,507,001
Totals	2,056,453	6,248,287	6,552,311

EM Forensics - External Forensics Services Contract - Leicestershire's contribution

East Midlands Forensic Contribution – this is Leicestershire's contribution towards the shared service costs, these are contracted out to a lead Force and shared by 5 Forces from 2014/15 onwards

DNA

4133

Body Fluids

2298

Marks and traces

116

Other Toxicology

167

Fingerprints

5522

Please note that there is a high likelihood that some cases will be counted twice. The data is for 3 years since April 2017 the start of our new contract. Our systems are not good enough to delve beyond that and the supplier for services has changed.

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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