



Our Ref: 003669/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 04 November 2020

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 03/11/2020 in which you requested the following information: -

Over the last 5 years the amount of requests the force has received from TV Licensing/Capita to attend a property to assist with executing a search warrant/prevent a breach of the peace. If possible I would appreciate the total requests actually attended by officers or declined by the force and all broken down by year.

A copy of any guidance/policy/documents relating to assisting TV Licensing (or any private corporations including, but not limited to: Bailiffs, TVL, Councils etc) when attending a property to enforce a warrant, such as deployment criteria, role of impartiality at scene etc.

Over the same period broken down by year, the amount of incidents where the words TV Licence/TV Licensing or BBC are reported and the reason for report, i.e. harassment, assault etc.

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 do not have a specific policy in relation to assisting TV Licensing/Capita with executing their duties. We would provide support only in extenuating circumstances where a call was made to the Police requiring Police attendance. To provide this information would require a manual trawl of all calls received in the time period requested as these calls would be recorded against the reporting person's name, and not the company they work for. This would take well 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 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

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police