



Our Ref: 003998/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 02 December 2020

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 01/12/2020 in which you requested the following information: -

- 1. The number of student parties attended by police officers month-by-month for the last 36 months up until the end of November.*
- 2. The number of fines for student house parties issued under the Covid regulations since their institution, month-by-month.*
- 3. The gross sum collected from these fines, month-by-month.*
- 4. The number of cautions, arrests or any other formal reprimand delivered to those involved in student parties, month-by-month.*

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 hold the information you have requested in a readily extractable format, this would therefore require a manual review of all logs where 'student' or 'party' were used, and due to there being different grammatical meanings for these words, this would require the reading of each of these logs to identify those meeting the criteria of your request.

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.

Section 16 – Duty to Assist

Information relating to student parties in breach of Covid regulations only required a manual search of a small number of logs, as such this has already been prepared and published in the below location:

<https://www.leics.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/published-items?q=covid+party>

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