



Our Ref: 004055/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 08 January 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 04/12/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

How much money is spent on hunting with hounds since 18 February 2004 to date. Please supply costs individually for each year.

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: -

Leicestershire Police can confirm the below amounts that are identifiable as relating to hunting activities as specific budgeting was assigned to them:

2015 - £10,869
2016 - £1,923
2019 - £10,790
TOTAL - £23,482

Any further information relating to this request is considered exempt by virtue of Section 12.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

Leicestershire Police does not record all policing of hunting activity separately, much of this type of policing is carried out as part of standard policing duties. Therefore to identify the specific costs for this would require a manual review of all policing duties to identify those including such activities and then identify the specific Officers hourly rate and identify the time spent on these duties. This manual review and evaluation would take in excess of 18 hours to complete.

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.

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

Leicestershire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law.

Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to The Information Manager, Leicestershire Police Headquarters, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicester LE19 2BX.