



Our Ref: 000127/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 09 February 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 12/01/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

- *The number of arrests at anti-lockdown, anti-mask and anti-Covid-19 protests in Leicestershire during 2020.*
Please could the amount of arrests per month be provided separately?
- *The amount of money spent on policing anti-lockdown, anti-mask and anti-Covid-19 protests in Leicestershire during 2020.*
Please could the amount of money per month be provided separately?

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 have recorded 2 protests matching the criteria of your request:
26/10/20 – 01/11/20
28/11/20

Neither resulted in arrests.

Cost information is considered exempt by virtue of Section 12.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

Policing of the above protests was carried out as part of Operational Policing and as such the costs have not been recorded separately. Therefore to attempt to identify the costs associated with the policing of these protests would require a manual review of each Officer in attendance and their rate of pay, the duration of their attendance and any additional costs. This would take 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 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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