



Our Ref: 000496/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 08 March 2021

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 11/02/2021 in which you requested the following information: -

I would like to request the following information on knife crime data:

- *Data on the different types of knives that have been recovered by police, for example zombie knives, Rambo knives, machetes etc.*
- *Data on different brands of knives recovered.*

Please can this be sent to me as a proportion of the total knives recovered by year dating back to 2011?

Is it also possible to specify in what capacity the knife was recovered, i.e. was it involved in a violent crime, murder, robbery 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 hold the information you have requested in a retrievable format, to provide the specific data you have requested would require a manual review of over 4,200 entries detailed under the categories of knife/dagger/broken bottle/machete/hatchet/sword. This review 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.

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