



Our Ref: 000570/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 16 March 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 18/02/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

Please can you provide a breakdown for the number of cannabis factories (in residential and commercial properties) that have been closed and dismantled by police in each calendar year from 2015 to 2020.

Can you also detail the estimated value of the drugs discovered at each illegal cannabis factory please.

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: -

Year	No of Instances	Plants Seized
2015	129	3,583
2016	151	4,037
2017	144	23,396
2018	187	5,820
2019	152	5,517
2020	168	10,607

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.

Please note:

Q1

The figures are for ALL GROWS. This includes grows of single figures. This is because some single figure grows are using special techniques and the plants 'Triffids' with exceptional yields. Therefore grows for personal use are included.

Q2 & 3

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.

No value has been provided as it would be necessary to read every crime individually and take into account the particular circumstances of each crime. There is no easily retrievable electronic way of searching for this information and therefore valuing individual seizures would take over the time allocated for this type of request under the legislation.

In order to retrieve the information you have requested in this part of your request 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.

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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