



Our Ref: 000991/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 16 April 2021

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 23/03/2021 in which you requested the following information: -

*How many cases has the force submitted to the NCA's Serious Crime Analysis Section broken down by offence and by year 2020 / 2019 / 2018 / 2017?
Of those cases – again broken down within the years - what number has the force submitted within mandated code of practice timescale of 20 days?
What is the forces current total of 'backlog cases' or 'Collect cases' as they're sometimes called - awaiting to be referred to SCAS?*

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 retrievable format, referrals are made based on a specific criteria and this is recorded in the working sheets of an offence. Therefore to provide the information you have requested would require a manual review of all potentially referred cases to identify those that met the criteria and were subsequently referred. 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 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