



Our Ref: 001071/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 29 April 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 26/03/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

Question 1

From the 2014/5 to 2018/19 football seasons, how much Special Police Services have you received each season from football clubs in your force area?

SPS Received from football clubs

<i>2014/15</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>	<i>2018/19</i>
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Question 2 From the 2014/5 to 2018/19 football seasons, what is the total amount you have spent each season on policing football?

Amount spent on football policing operations

<i>2014/15</i>	<i>2015/16</i>	<i>2016/17</i>	<i>2017/18</i>	<i>2018/19</i>
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Question 3 Please can you provide a copy of the tool (for example a spreadsheet) that you have used to calculate the cost of policing football?

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: -

Please see the attachment to the Email.

With reference to Question 3

This information is exempt by virtue of Section 31

To provide this information would reveal specific police tactics or operational sensitivities utilised in football policing and IT systems used by the force.

I can confirm that that we use the Forces Special Policing Services hourly rates for each Officer and the number of Officers provided per Security Category are agreed by both the Force and Leicester City Football Club.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Leicestershire Constabulary, 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 relate to your request are as follows:

- Section 31 – Law Enforcement

These exemptions are qualified and require us to carry out a harm and public interest balancing test before they can be relied upon.

Evidence of Harm

Under the Act, we cannot, and do not request the motives of any application for information. We have no doubt that the vast majority of requests made under the Act are legitimate.

However, in disclosing information to one applicant, we are expressing a willingness to provide it to anyone in the world. This means that a disclosure to a genuinely interested and concerned person automatically opens it up for a similar disclosure, including those who would use the information to gain an advantage over the police.

In considering whether or not this information should be disclosed, consideration has been given to the potential harm that could be caused by disclosure.

Effective policing requires the active participation of a wide number of agencies in order for it to be successful. As a result, during the course of policing, activities specific police tactics, operational sensitivities or any specialist IT systems used by the force are utilised in football policing.

If a disclosure was made under the Act that left the Force susceptible it would mean that information is not discussed and would severely impact on the process of law enforcement.

To release this information into the public domain would therefore clearly impact on our law enforcement capabilities with regards to protecting and ensuring the safety of our policing systems and the community.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in disclosure of the requested information as it would allow the public to discuss the conduct of how the Police process and protect information gathered for investigations and would therefore raise the Force's accountability. It would also aid transparency and allow any failings to be discussed in the public domain.

Disclosure would also enable the public to see how public funds are spent during the course of daily policing operations.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring non - disclosure

I am of the opinion that it is not in the public interest to disclose detailed information that relates to the protection and security of the community and policing at football matches on this occasion. The information requested contains a

information that if disclosed, would reveal police protection and security along with other information which is vital to Law Enforcement.

It would therefore give those criminally minded an added advantage should they wish to impede law enforcement and would significantly weaken our law enforcement capabilities.

Conclusion

I believe that on balance it is **not** in the public interest to release information for question 3 which you have requested on this occasion for the reasons stated above. I appreciate that this is not the decision you would have hoped for but I must consider the wider position under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which I feel necessitates the need to refuse question 3 of your request under this legislation.

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.

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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