



Our Ref: 001329/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 13 May 2021

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 19/04/2021 in which you requested the following information: -

Between 2015 to date:

1. *How many 12 year olds and under have been stopped by officers in your force?*
2. *How many 12 year olds and under have been stopped and searched by officers in your force?*
3. *How many 12 year olds and under have been stopped and searched and arrested as a result of the stop and search by officers of your force?*

In each case can you determine the reason they were stopped and/or stopped and searched:

1. *Theft*
2. *Drugs*
3. *Firearms*
4. *Offensive weapon*
5. *Suspicious behaviour*
6. *Welfare concern*

In each case can you cite whether the child was male or female and whether they are white, black, mixed heritage, Asian, or of minority ethnic.

Please can you also cite whether:

1. *They were living within the police force area*
2. *They were not living within the police force area.*

And finally, please state whether a Taser had been threatened to be used or used against the child.

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 are unable to provide the numbers of people 12 years and under who were 'Stopped' because we no longer monitor people who are stopped only as this requirement was removed.

Providing information relating to whether individuals lived within the Force area would require a manual review of all Stop Search records. Further, whether there was use of Taser would require a cross check between 2 different systems in order to establish whether a Taser was used.

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.

Section 16 – Duty to Assist

Leicestershire Police would be able to retrieve information relating to Stop Searches of those aged 12 or under and any associated arrests, along with the reason ethnicity and gender. If you would like this information please provide an update request.

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