



Our Ref: 001598/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 07 June 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 10/05/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

Please could you provide me with a list of unsolved murders which have taken place within the force area up to the 30/04/2021.

Please include for each case;

- 1. the name of the victim*
- 2. the victims age*
- 3. the date of offence*
- 4. the location of offence*
- 5. a brief description of the offence*
- 6. Whether any arrests have ever been made in connection with the offence*

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 find attached spreadsheet containing information relating to your request. Please be aware that all of these cases have been reported in the media. Any further information relating to unsolved cases is considered exempt by virtue of Section 30.

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Application of Section 30 - Investigations

Section 30 is a class-based exemption which means that I am not required to demonstrate the harm that disclosure would cause. However, I am still required to conduct a public interest test which highlights the factors for and against disclosure.

Considerations favouring disclosure

There is already a public knowledge that investigations are conducted into these types of offence by Leicestershire Police. Therefore the public would have a genuine interest in being informed of the information you have requested. It would also

enable the public to see how public funds are spent in the course of operational policing.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

The information requested relates to ongoing cases, as a result, these are still under investigation. Disclosure of information relating to live investigations not already in the public eye may seriously impact the course of those investigations.

I see no tangible benefit to the community at large if this information was released on this occasion.

Further to the above, information relating to unsolved murders prior to 2000 and arrests made relating to those is considered exempt by virtue of Section 12.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

Information relating to whether arrests have been made relating to cases prior to 2000 if held within the case records of those files, these are in paper form and would require a manual review of the files in order to identify what cases have associated arrests. 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 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

Leicestershire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law.

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