



Our Ref: 001611/21

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 11/05/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

How many arrests under anti-terrorism laws did the force make each year between 2015-most current data available. If possible please provide breakdown of nature of suspected terror offence (e.g. right wing extremism, Islamist terrorism).

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 I am unable to supply the information you have requested.

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 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 24 (1) – National Security;
- Section 31 (1) – Law Enforcement

Sections 24(1) and 31(1) are qualified and require us to carry out a harm and public interest balancing test before they can be relied upon.

Overall 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. Information relating to arrests made under legislation relating to terrorism offences may divulge information to members of the criminal fraternity that would severely impact National Security and impact the process of law enforcement.

Public Interest Test

The public interest is not what interests the public, but what will be of greater good if released to the community as a whole. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that may compromise Leicestershire Police's ability to fulfil its core functions.

Section 24 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and providing information relating to your request could lead to a better-informed public that can take steps to protect themselves

Section 24 - Factors Against Disclosure

By providing specific Force level information for Leicestershire Police relating to your request, would render Security measures less effective. This could lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Section 31 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

Providing the information you have requested would enable the public to see where public funds are being spent. Better public awareness may reduce crime or lead to more information from the public. Information relating to National level statistics of this nature is already published here [Terrorism statistical data](#).

Section 31 – Factors Against Disclosure

Provision of Force level statistics would allow the public knowledge of which areas have made higher numbers of arrests, this information would hinder the prevention and detection of crime allowing the criminal fraternity knowledge of which areas are making higher numbers of arrests. This would severely impact law enforcement, more crime could be committed and individuals placed at risk.

Conclusion

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

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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