



Our Ref: 002392/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 15 July 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 14/07/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. For each year since 2015 please provide the number of VRR requests received by your force.*
- 2. For each year since 2015 please provide your data for outcomes of VRR requests received - this may include investigations re-opened, cases referred to CPS, or decisions to charge - or any other data you collect on outcomes.*
- 3. For each of the requests above in questions 1 and 2 please provide the details for:*
 - a. Total VRR requests for all crime types*
 - b. VRR requests in cases of rape and serious sexual assault*
 - c. VRR requests in cases of domestic abuse*
- 4. Please confirm how officers are allocated to review VRRs.*
- 5. Please confirm whether any specific training is given to officers carrying out VRRs.*
- 6. Please confirm whether, for VRRs involving rape and serious sexual offences, or domestic abuse, there is any requirement for officers carrying out the reviews to have specialist knowledge of those types of offences.*

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: -

1. For each year since 2015 please provide the number of VRR requests received by your force.
 - 2015- 16
 - 2016- 54
 - 2017- 77
 - 2018- 62
 - 2019- 89
 - 2020- 72
2. For each year since 2015 please provide your data for outcomes of VRR requests received - this may include investigations re-opened, cases referred to CPS, or decisions to charge - or any other data you collect on outcomes.

2015-

Not eligible- 1

Original decision upheld- 10

Re-opened for further Police investigation, Refer to CPS- 4

Conditional caution issued – 1

Re-opened for further Police investigation -1

2016-

Original decision upheld- 32

Not eligible – 13

Re-opened for further enquires, Referred to CPS- 10

2017-

Not eligible- 23

Re-opened for further enquires, Referred to CPS- 9

Original decision upheld- 44

Referred to PSD- 1

2018-

Not eligible- 26

Original decision upheld- 31

Re-opened for further enquires, Referred to CPS- 5

2019-

Not eligible- 30

Original decision upheld-39

Re-opened for further enquires, referred to CPS- 16

Referred to PSD- 1

2020-

Not eligible- 31

Original decision upheld-30

Re-opened for further enquires, referred to CPS- 9

VRR application withdrew-2

3. For each of the requests above in questions 1 and 2 please provide the details for:

a. Total VRR requests for all crime types

- 2015- 16

- 2016- 54
- 2017- 77
- 2018- 62
- 2019- 89
- 2020- 72

b. VRR requests in cases of rape and serious sexual assault

- 2015- 6
- 2016- 12
- 2017- 9
- 2018- 12
- 2019- 21
- 2020- 25

c. VRR requests in cases of domestic abuse

Domestic Abuse is not recorded separately so Leicestershire Police are unable to obtain the figures within the specified time under the legislation. It would require a manual search of all the records to ascertain which referred to Domestic Abuse incidents and would, therefore, invoke a section 12 exemption for this part of your request.

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.

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.

4. Please confirm how officers are allocated to review VRRs.

Detective Inspectors or Detective chief Inspectors are allocated offences to review VRR'S if they are not part of the original investigation, and are 1 rank higher than the previous decision maker. They are also all from Crime and Intelligence Directorate and so are all detectives with experience of managing serious crime. Their availability is checked before allocating VRR's for them to view to ensure they are not on an extended period of annual leave or on an extended course.

5. Please confirm whether any specific training is given to officers carrying out VRRs. There is no specific training. National guidance is available if required.

6. Please confirm whether, for VRRs involving rape and serious sexual offences, or domestic abuse, there is any requirement for officers carrying out the reviews to have specialist knowledge of those types of offences.

Yes, as previously stated, all VRR's are allocated to DI or DCI within Crime and intelligence Directorate, and all are a minimum of PIP investigators and have experience of investigating and managing serious crime.

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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