



Our Ref: 002337/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 05 August 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 08/07/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

Question 1)

- a) How many instances of child criminal exploitation* were detected in the years 17/18, 18/19, 19/20, 20/21*
- b) Please provide the number of victims involved and the nature of the crimes as recorded by the police e.g. county lines etc*
- c) Please provide the number of these victims who had been or were currently 'Looked after Children'* or on a child protection plan*.*

Question 2)

- a) How many instances of child sexual exploitation were detected in the years 17/18, 18/19, 19/20, 20/21*
- b) Please provide the number of these victims who had been or were currently 'Looked after Children' or on a child protection plan*

Question 3)

- a) How many arrests/cautions of children carrying knives were made in the years 17/18, 18/19, 19/20, 20/21*
- b) Please provide the number of arrests there were of children who had been or were currently 'Looked after Children' or on a child protection plan.*

Question 4)

- a) How many arrests/cautions have there been of children aged 10-17 which have led to a referral to the National Referral Mechanism* in the years 17/18, 18/19, 19/20, 20/21*
- b) Please provide the number of arrests and referrals to the NRM of children who had been or were currently 'Looked after Children' or on a child protection plan.*

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: -

For Questions 1 & 2

For Question 3 & Question 4 – Arrest data

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.

Please see the attached spreadsheet for crimes flagged as CSE and answers Questions 2a 3a

Please note:

The following data is unavailable and therefore missing from this response:

- 1) Data to identify whether a child is “Looked after” or in Local Authority Care is unavailable within the time available Q1c, Q2b, Q3b and Q4b).
- 2) Data to reliably identify CCE (Q1) is not available within the time available.
- 3) Data to connect arrested children with NRM referral is unavailable within the time available (Q4)

Q3 - There were 230 juvenile arrests for knife possession offences. It would require every record to be checked manually to see if there was any further mention of being a LAC or a protection plan, 5 minutes per record would be roughly 19 hours work.

Q4 - There were 4153 10-17-year old’s arrested during the time scale given. On top of searching for LAC status or a protection plan it would be necessary to check if there was a referral to the NRM made.taking roughly 346 hours.

In order to retrieve all 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.

Under Section 16 – Duty to assist

Partial information we are able to provide is as follows:

Arrest data

Year	Knife Arrests
2017/18	62
2018/19	80
2019/20	49
2020/21	39

Please see the attached spreadsheet for crimes flagged as CSE and answers Questions 2a 3a

Please note:

The following data is unavailable and therefore missing from this response by virtue of Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- 4) Data to identify whether a child is “Looked after” or in Local Authority Care is unavailable within the time available Q1c, Q2b, Q3b and Q4b).
- 5) Data to reliably identify CCE (Q1) is not available within the time available.
- 6) Data to connect arrested children with NRM referral is unavailable within the time available (Q4)

Attached data answers Q2a and Q3a.

Q2(a)(b) – Force level stats are provided on number per annum for “abuse of children through child exploitation” at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004905/prc-pfa-mar2013-onwards-tables-220721.ods

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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