



Our Ref: 002527/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 23rd August 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 26/07/2021 in which you requested the following information:

1. Please can you tell me the number of reported incidents under the three following crime categories:
 - Harassment
 - Stalking
 - Malicious Communication

That occurred on digital platforms, where the victim has been recorded as a teacher, and the incident was related to their occupation for each of the previous three financial years?

- a. *If recorded, please can you provide a breakdown by whether the alleged perpetrator was a pupil, or, a parent.*

As far as is possible please could you format your response to fit this table.

The number of reported incidents of harassment, malicious communications or stalking where the victim has been recorded as a teacher, and the incident was related to their occupation.

Financial Year Total Where the perpetrator is a 'pupil'. Where the perpetrator is a 'parent'. Where the perpetrator is not recorded.

2020 / 2021

2019 / 2020

2018 / 2019

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 committed to ensuring that available expertise is available in order to service Freedom of Information Requests. This often involves the use of the specialist analytical team. However, this team also undertakes a wide range of operational policing tasks and often a balancing exercise needs to be undertaken. This was recognised by the ICO in their national guidance when they stated:

'The Act recognises that freedom of information requests are not the only demand on the resources of a public authority. They should not be allowed to cause a drain on your time, energy and finances to the extent that they negatively affect your normal public functions'¹.

Having reviewed your request it is apparent that a detailed analysis exercise will need to be undertaken. On this occasion, operational demands have meant that our analytical team do not have the capacity to service your request.

As a result, it has been reviewed by the wider business area. Unfortunately, on this occasion it has been estimated that your request will take in excess of 18 hours work. This is due to the need for a manual retrieval and search of relevant crime statistics. Your request encompasses a large number of records and it is clear that to provide the answers to your request will take in excess of the 18 hour time limit on this occasion.

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 apologies for the delay in responding. If you are able to redefine your request we will be able to resubmit this request for consideration.

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

¹ <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-freedom-of-information/refusing-a-request/>