



Our Ref: 002868/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 06 October 2021

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 26/08/2021 in which you requested the following information: -

Please find below my FOI requests that are for the past 5 calendar years (with the figures being broken down for each year) and apply only to sexual offences of disabled individuals (with the figures being broken down if possible re: if the offences took place when the individual was a child or an adult):

- 1. Number of allegations per year*
- 2. Number of charges placed per year*
- 3. Number of convictions per year*

It would be helpful to have a breakdown of the disabilities if possible.

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.

The crime recording system of Leicestershire Police does not have a flag that indicates whether a person is disabled so we are unable to identify whether a victim of a sexual is disabled or not.

Therefore we are unable to provide the information requested.

The only way to identify this would be to read the Logs of each individual crime, there have been nearly 13,000 sexual offences over the period sought and hence this is impossible to process within the allowed timescales.

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 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.

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police