

17 May 2018

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180696**

**REQUEST**

1. The number of times in each of the financial years (April 1 - Mar 31) officers have attended incidents at a Sunday league football match - 2014/15; 2015/16; 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18.
2. The number of crimes your force has recorded in each of the financial years (April 1 - Mar 31) where the crime report indicates that the location was a Sunday league football match.
3. Please provide a breakdown stating for each crime i) year of the record ii) the offences recorded iii) a summary description of the circumstances of the crime - please indicate if the victim was a player, a spectator or a referee
4. The number of times in each of the financial years (April 1 - Mar 31) officers have attended incidents at a children's football match - 2014/15; 2015/16; 2015/16; 2016/17; 2017/18.
5. The number of crimes your force has recorded in each of the financial years (April 1 - Mar 31) where the crime report indicates that the location was a children's football match.
6. Please provide a breakdown stating for each crime i) year of the record ii) the offences recorded iii) a summary description of the circumstances of the crime - please indicate if the victim was a player, a spectator or a referee

**RESPONSE**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire 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 following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

**Section 12(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

Questions 1 & 4 refer to the number of incidents recorded relating to Sunday League or children's football matches. Incidents such as this would be recorded on our Incident Management System which records the majority of matters / incidents requiring the specific deployment of police resources, whether reported by members of the public or 'happened upon' by officers and staff in the course of their duties.

From similar requests of this nature, our Incident Management System Administrator has advised that it is not possible to extract any data from the system which relates specifically to children's football matches or Sunday league matches. Incident logs read like a running commentary/diary of events that can run to several pages in length, depending on the nature of the incident and the system has a limited number of searchable fields from which to retrieve 'bulk' data. The only this could be achieved is by searching for incidents which mention the word 'football' and then manually reviewing each incident to see if it matches the

criteria of your request. This would bring back 1000s of incident logs to read through which would far exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

The same scenario would apply to recorded crimes as there is no location category of children's football match. Here a free text search would be required of all recorded crimes which mention specific key words and again would require a manual trawl through 1000s of records to see if it met the criteria of your request.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

[https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs\\_of\\_compliance\\_exceeds\\_appropriate\\_limit.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)