

6 September 2018

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20181432**

**REQUEST**

Please confirm the amount of compensation that was paid out by South Yorkshire Police in relation to dog bites in the last 10 years. Please include dates for each incident.

**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**

I approached our Legal Services Department for assistance with your request. Our Solicitor has advised the following in response:

*I do not consider that we can provide this information without going over the 18 hours. This is because we do not separately record which of the civil claims against SYP are specifically arising from dog bites , this would therefore involve going through each individual civil claim to establish what sort of claim it was for and whether it was a dog bite or not. Given the period of time requested this would take us massively beyond the 18 hours to provide this information.*

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)