

10th April 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20190645

REQUEST

I would like to request the following information:

The amount of money spent by South Yorkshire Police on policing professional football matches within the following time periods...

1st August 2015 - 1st March 2016

1st August 2016 - 1st March 2017

1st August 2017 - 1st March 2018

1st August 2018 - 1st March 2019

I would like this information broken down by football club (e.g. the amount spent policing matches at each professional club).

Separately, I would like to request the amount of money South Yorkshire Police has recovered from professional football clubs for the policing of football matches during the same time periods, broken down by club.

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– Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

I contacted our Finance Department, this department records additional costs of policing specific events and incidents. These additional costs are over and above normal policing duties or time in working day of an officer that has a cost attributed to it.

They advised there are no reports within Finance that would assist with this request for additional cost and they would have to manually look at each match in the time period requested to retrieve the data needed, which would take over the 18 hour rule for the Freedom of Information Act.

As such, this request to South Yorkshire Police to locate, retrieve and extract the pertinent information in relation to your request would significantly exceed the appropriate limit.

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.

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

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future .

To assist in some way, I have attached an infographic that gives the national figure on the cost of policing. This has been produced by the National Police Lead on this subject.

Also see the following link:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/news/2018/june/the-cost-of-policing-football-in-south-yorkshire/>