

19th September 2019

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20191883

REQUEST

1. Please can you provide me with the number of crimes recorded by your force, per month, for each of the months since November 2017 to the most recent month for which the data is available for each of the following types of offence:

- a) Assault***
- b) Drugs***
- c) Public order***
- d) Robbery***
- e) Theft***
- f) Criminal damage / arson***
- g) Possession of weapons***
- h) Sexual offences (including rape)***
- i) Rape***

2. Please can you prove me with the number of cautions issued per month, for each of the months from November 2017 to the most recent month for which the data is available for each of the offence types listed above.

3. Please can you prove me with the number of arrests made, per month, for each of the months from November 2017 to the most recent month for which the data is available for each of the offence types listed above.

4. Please can you prove me with the number of charges made, per month, for each of the months from November 2017 to the most recent month for which the data is available for each of the offence types listed above.

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.

Section 40(2) Personal Information.

Section 44 (1) Prohibition on Disclosures

Section 40(2) Personal Information.

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant

However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption. Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term

'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual(s) who can be identified. Due to the level of information sought offence type, outcome and by a monthly breakdown, in some instances there are low numbers involved which by releasing in turn may lead to identification of individuals involved.

Section 44 (1) Prohibition on Disclosures

This too is an absolute exemption and is engaged in respect of Section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 1992 (as amended by Schedule 6 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) which gives victims/offenders of specific offences a guaranteed anonymity.

I am however happy to release the following data and figures on a tabled format with a level of data which will anonymise it and make it suitable for release into the public domain, releasing the data in this format restricts any possibility of identifying individuals.

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data. The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

Please see the attached and the below explanation.

CMS(ii) Data –

I have included a count of the specified offences recorded on the CMS(ii) Crime register between 01-Nov-2017 and 04-Dec-2017. Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the offence outcome.

CONNECT Data -

I have included a count of the specified offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Aug-2019. Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the offence outcome. Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the offence outcome.

I have not provided the CMS(ii) Data in the same format as CONNECT Data (Home Office Groups) as the data extract would have to be further manipulated to achieve this.