

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20201122**

**REQUEST**

***1- How many crimes of domestic abuse were reported from Jan. 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020?***

***Please provide the data broken down by week if possible. If weekly data is not available, please provide the data broken down by month.***

***2- Please state how many of these reported domestic abuse crimes involved at least one victim under the age of 18 and if possible please include a gender-breakdown of the victims.***

***If possible please also include the type of crime (for example assault, coercive control, sexual abuse etc.).***

***3- How many domestic abuse arrests did you carry out from Jan. 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020?***

***Please provide the data broken down by week if possible. If weekly data is not available, please provide the data broken down by month.***

***4- Please state how many of these domestic abuse arrests involved at least one victim under the age of 18 and if possible please include a gender-breakdown of the victims.***

***Please also include the reason for the arrest (for example assault, coercive control, sexual abuse etc.) and the outcome (for example charge, caution, no further action etc.)***

**RESPONSE**

**Q4**

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**

In respect Q4 for further information, the administrator provided count of the Arrests on the system which have a Domestic Flag for Q3. We can retrieve this data by Title and Domestic Flag but it would require a manual check of each arrest record to extract the gender/ages detail for each arrestee. This would exceed the 18hr rule as there are over 12,500 records to check..

In essence, we do not record this information in a retrievable format and it would require a manual check of each record to collate the data. This process would take much longer than 18 hours' work.

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](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 .**

### **Q3**

I approached the Custody Administrator for Arrest element of your request. As advised above he has searched the Connect Arrest System and provided the Arrest count on the Arrest Tab of the spreadsheet attached.

### **Q1 and Q2**

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

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 below explanation of her search.

*Please find attached completed FOI and below explanation.*

*I have provided a count of all offences recorded on CONNECT Crime where any of the following Domestic Abuse Keywords are recorded - Domestic Abuse; Repeat Domestic Abuse; Partner On Partner, broken down by HO Description, Week Number and Year between Date Reported 01-JAN-2019 and 30-APR-2020.*

*I have provided a further count of victims recorded on CONNECT Crime for all offences recorded with any of the following Domestic Abuse Keywords - Domestic Abuse; Repeat Domestic Abuse; Partner On Partner and where the victim(s) recorded age is 17 and under.*

***““Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality””.***

*Please note that from April 2020 HOCR Reference 8U Controlling or Coercive behaviour Change 6 The offences of controlling or coercive behaviour has been moved out of category 105A Assault without injury into a new separate classification. NCRS paper 69-2019 refers.*