

16<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## **Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20192202**

### **REQUEST**

1. *How many home visits were carried out for each “high risk” offender in the last year?*
2. *How many high-risk offenders were re assessed and re-evaluated as low risk in the last year?*
3. *How many of offenders were consistently assessed as low risk and no longer receive home visits?*
4. *How many registered sex offenders have failed to make annual contact with police stations?*
5. *How long does it take for a registered sex offender to be considered as “missing” from the constabulary area?*
6. *How many registered sex offenders are missing from the constabulary are over the last three years?*

### **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**

Our Administrator advises they are:

*unable to answer this question as would require checking over 1500 records to look for a breach for the annual registration. There are many other types of breaches also such as late passport or financial information, so I would have to look at each one.*

In essence, we would have to review and manually check 1500 records to extract the level of detail of the cases that met the criteria of your request; 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 .

1. **How many home visits were carried out for each "high risk" offender in the last year?** 474 visits took place between 01/10/2018 – 01/10/2019 to "high risk" offenders. I am unable to break this down to each individual to see how many times they were each visited. Eg one nominal might have been visited 6 times in the year, and another only 3 times.
2. **How many high-risk offenders were re assessed and re-evaluated as low risk in the last year?** We do not collate this information
3. **How many of offenders were consistently assessed as low risk and no longer receive home visits?** As at 11/10/2019 we have 111 RSO's on reactive management.
4. **How many registered sex offenders have failed to make annual contact with police stations?** As above exemption.
5. **How long does it take for a registered sex offender to be considered as "missing" from the constabulary area?** This is on a case by case basis. Usually 1 week.
6. **How many registered sex offenders are missing from the constabulary are over the last three years?** This number can change daily. We currently have 6 wanted/missing offenders.

*In relation to the number of registered sexual offenders whose whereabouts are unknown, South Yorkshire Police have advised previously when releasing this information that this total is only valid for the date in question because the information is dynamic and will change as arrests are made or new cases come to light through proactive intelligence led policing or routine visits to registered offenders'.*