

31st July 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20201586

REQUEST

Please treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I'm hoping to find out:

- ***The number of people who have been reported missing to this force during the calendar year of 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020?***
- ***The number of people reported missing who were then found during the calendar year of 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020?***
- ***Can this be broken down by gender please?***
- ***Can this be broken down by ethnicity please?***
- ***Can this be broken down by each age range from 0-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, 60-70, 70+, please?***

- ***The number of people who have been reported as missing to this force during the lockdown period from 23rd March 2020 – 4th July 2020?***
- ***The number of people reported missing who were then found during the lockdown period from 23rd March 2020 – 4th July 2020?***
- ***Can this be broken down by gender please?***
- ***Can this be broken down by ethnicity please?***
- ***Can this be broken down by each age range from 0-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, 60-70, 70+, please?***

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

For the detail of a count of person recorded missing and found in the same timescales, a Performance & Governance Analyst of the system has advised:

The request of how many individuals were reported and then found in the said time frame has not been able to be conducted due to the misper system not providing this information. Thus, each individual record for each year would have to be accessed independently.

In essence, we do not record this information in a retrievable format it would require a manual check of every record to check the missing date then the found date and then a third

check to see if they fall in the same time parameters. 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

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 .

I had approached our Performance & Governance unit for assistance with your request. An Analyst has provided the below explanation and attached data.

Please find attached the response to FOI 20201586 and the below explanation.

MISPER Data –

I have included a count of missing persons who have been reported missing during the years of 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 as per the request, broken down by:

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Ages (**Please note: age ranges are not an exact of the request due to the misper system already providing pre-set groupings.**)

The request of how many individuals were reported and then found in the said time frame has not been able to be conducted due to the misper system not providing this information. Thus, each individual record for each year would have to be accessed independently.

In addition, I have also included a tab with the count of missing persons who have been reported missing during the lockdown period of 23rd March 2020 to 4th July 2020. as per the request, broken down by:

- Gender
- Ethnicity

- Ages (**Please note: age ranges are not an exact of the request due to the misper system already providing pre-set groupings.**)

Again, the request of how many individuals were reported and then found in the said time frame has not been able to be conducted due to the misper system not providing this information. Thus, each individual record for each year would have to be accessed independently.