

19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202341**

**REQUEST**

*I seek access to a breakdown of incidents involving E-scooters on a year by year basis between October 2017 and October 2020.*

*For each year, I'd like to know how many times an e-scooter been involved in:*

- 1. -road traffic collisions*
- 2. -anti-social behaviour*
- 3. -criminal damage*
- 4. -a confiscation by your forces.*

*If you are able to provide details of each incident, that would also be very helpful.*

**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**

We have been asked previously for counts of seized or confiscated items ie bikes/scooters/weapons etc but to retrieve this type of data would require checking with a number of departments or units to see if they have confiscated a scooter of any type in the last 3 years. Items that are confiscated or seized are not recorded on a central database within SYP, but by individual departments and by districts (Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley or Doncaster) on their own database/records. This would be time consuming and require a manual check of records & pocket notebooks etc.

Crime Management System – To retrieve data that may on an Offence record, which has property section (this is not a mandated field) would require checking manually reviewing every offence to see if the the property section has been inputted to identify if an item matching your search criteria fits.

ALSO:

In relation to RTC's, I contacted our Operational Support Unit who provide us the stats about Road Traffic Collisions/Accidents. The Analyst has advised:

*There is no separate E-Scooter vehicle category in the National Collision Recording Form. There is a newly recreated Class 23 vehicle which is classed as :*

- Includes all electrically powered motorcycles over .25kw, whether or not they are also equipped with pedals.*

*Other than that, they would have to be recorded under Pedal Cycle (Class 01) or Other Vehicle (Class90).*

*As such, extracting a specific sub-class would be a manual affair, assuming the "E-Scooter" was mentioned in the RTC Description.*

Therefore, to search for this RTC element of your request "E Scooter" would require a manual search of all our records as there is no separate category which would locate the data for extracting for you request.

On top of that the seized element would require contacting every district and department in SYP that may have dealt with a seizure in the course of their duties in the last 3 years to retrieve the count if available.

In essence to locate, retrieve and extract the pertinent information in relation to both parts of your request would significantly exceed the 18 hour 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](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 already contacted the Incident Management System Administrator and she has provided the following count of incidents where the words "e scooter" was in the free text box.

|       | Incident System Closing Code  | Year      |           |             |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
|       |                               | 19        | 20        | Grand Total |
| Crime | CRIMINAL DAMAGE               | 2         | 2         | 4           |
| ASB   | NUISANCE NEIGHBOUR (PERS)     | 4         |           | 4           |
|       | OFF ROAD BIKE/QUAD (NUIS)     | 2         | 4         | 6           |
|       | ROWDY/INCONSID (ENV)          |           | 4         | 4           |
|       | ROWDY/INCONSID (NUIS)         | 2         | 2         | 4           |
|       | VEH NUISANCE/INAPP USE (ENV)  | 6         |           | 6           |
|       | VEH NUISANCE/INAPP USE (NUIS) | 2         | 2         | 4           |
|       | VEH NUISANCE/INAPP USE (PERS) | 2         |           | 2           |
|       | <b>Grand Total</b>            | <b>20</b> | <b>14</b> | <b>34</b>   |