

7th April 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20200938

REQUEST

In the 2019 calendar year how many juveniles (children aged 10-17 inclusive) did you arrest who had already been arrested at least 49 previous times by your force in their past?

For each individual please state (i) the total number of times they have been arrested by your force, (ii) their age when first arrested, (iii) their age when last arrested and (iv) a breakdown of the offences for which they were arrested.

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

I approached our Custody Performance & Governance Unit for assistance with your request. He has provided the following explanation in respect to a juveniles arrest count:

To extract a list of every juvenile arrested in 2019 (this step may be reasonably straightforward)

- Then check back through the last 7 years of custody date (to 2012) to establish how often each juvenile has been arrested. This is massively complex because:
 - This would need a separate report running on both CONNECT and CHS, pulling all juvenile arrest data.
 - CHS does not have the same Golden Nominal as CONNECT so work would have to be done on the CHS data to cleanse it (e.g. Jon Smith and John Smith would appear on CHS as two different records even though they may be the same person). The only way sure to cleanse the data would be to manually check each potential duplicate.
 - The data would then have to be combined. This would require extensive work mapping the data fields between CHS and CONNECT

And all this is before we begin any form of analysis.

- The analysis would be complex, probably using Excel as we would have to try and cross reference all the historic arrest data with the arrest data from 2019 – in order to establish who had been arrested more than 49 times.

And all of this is before we can even begin to look at the ancillary questions, regarding youngest/oldest age, offence type etc.

In essence to, we would have to review and manually check all Arrest 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