

18th August 2023

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 23.010005

I am contacting you regarding the Freedom of Information request you submitted to South Yorkshire Police on the 12/07/2023.

Your request was as follows:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information on lost and stolen wrist watches.

- ***How many watches were recorded as stolen in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022? Please provide figures for each year.***
- ***What was the combined value of these watches? Please provide figures for each year.***
- ***How many watches have been recorded as stolen in the first six months of 2023 – 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2023?***
- ***What was the combined valued of these watches?***
- ***What percentage/number of watches recorded as stolen in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 were recovered?***
- ***What percentage/number of watches reported stolen in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 involved some form of violence against the owner/person wearing the watch?***
- ***What percentage/number of watches reported stolen in the first six months of 2023 involved some form of violence against owner/person wearing the watch?***
- ***What percentage/number of watches reported stolen in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 have resulted in the fatality of the victim?***

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(1) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request.

Regarding the “value” element of your request, it is not possible to provide an accurate figure for the monetary value as both the ‘Property Stolen Value’ and “Quantity” fields are not mandated requirements, and therefore not recorded for all offences. In addition, if both the ‘Property Stolen Value’ and ‘Quantity’ are recorded, then we cannot be certain whether the value recorded relates to multiple items i.e. Property – Drill Value 300, Quantity 2, this would not give a clear picture as to the true value. We cannot determine without manual review if the value is 300 per Drill or

150 per drill and therefore to retrieve elements of information for this request would require a manual review of each and every individual record of which there are 1,999. If each record took a total of 2 minutes to review, then this would take us a total of 66 hours and 38 minutes, which greatly exceeds the limit of 18 hours.

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, 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 fee's 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.

Please note, the Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crime'.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

The Crime Management administrator provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of their search criteria:

Incident Created Date is between 01/01/2019 and 30/06/2023, SYP & crime only filter, Property Status is equal to Stolen, Stolen / Recovered, Property Class 2 is equal to / is in Watch