

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20171749

REQUEST

I would be grateful if you would provide the following:

- 1) The number of claims for compensation received from victims of the child grooming scandal in Rotherham.*
- 2) The number of claims so far settled and the payments made for each.*
- 3) The legal costs - that is the amount of payment made to claimants' lawyers if separate from the individual compensation claim and the amount paid by the police to any outside law firms and counsel employed or instructed in relation to the claims.*

My focus is on victims in Rotherham but if there are, separately, any claims relating to victims in Sheffield, who may have been in contact with Sheffield Council services rather than Rotherham, I would be grateful if the same information is provided in relation to those.

Please let me know if you need to clarify any of the above.

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 40(2) Personal Information

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption.

Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. Information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed into the public domain, effectively to the world, not just to one individual. Although not explicitly naming individuals, the cumulative effect of a full disclosure ie number of claimants settled and the amounts would be likely due to the numbers involved to lead to the identification of those involved. This would be breaching the right to privacy afforded to persons under the Data Protection Act 1998.

While the above exemption applies to Questions 1 & 2, I have contacted our Legal Services Department and a force solicitor in regards to Q3.

I am able to disclose the Legal Fees total 2014 to date:

Legal fees total: £757,831.00 Legal Spend

For your information in Media team has advised

“Since 2014, South Yorkshire Police have received a number of claims and are working with the complainants and their legal representatives in respect of these.”