

1 September 2017

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20171548

REQUEST

1. How many dispersal zones has your police force declared in the specified time period?
2. What were the reasons for declaring these dispersal zones?
3. How many people have been dispersed / given directions to leave under dispersal powers during the specified time period?
4. How many items have been confiscated under dispersal powers during the specified time period?
5. How many prosecutions, convictions, fines and prison sentences have been issued for failing to comply with a direction to leave during the specified time period?
6. How many prosecutions, convictions and fines have been issued for failing to hand over items when requested under dispersal powers during the specified time period?
7. Could you provide any demographic information about who was dispersed and sanctioned, particularly the specific ages of each person?

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

We recently contacted each of the Business Manager for the four districts within South Yorkshire Police: Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Barnsley to assist with a request of a very similar nature.

They advised that in order to retrieve information relevant to your similar questions it would be necessary to contact a number of different Inspectors within each district to firstly account for all the dispersal orders issued.

In order to obtain more specific details from each of the dispersal orders our Business Support Units in each district would then need to manually trawl each one to extract the pertinent information for your request. This would significantly exceed the appropriate 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