

17 May 2019

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20190962**

**REQUEST**

1. Please provide costs charged to football clubs, for football-related costs only for the 2017-18 season, split by club: Sheffield United Sheffield Wednesday Rotherham United Barnsley FC Doncaster Rovers
2. Could you please supply me with the number of arrest levels from Sheffield United matches from the 2018/2019 season compared to the number of arrests from the 2017/2018 season.
3. Could you please supply me with the number of arrest levels from Sheffield Wednesday matches from the 2018/2019 season compared to the number of arrests from the 2017/2018 season.
4. Could you please supply me with the number of arrest levels from Rotherham United matches from the 2018/2019 season compared to the number of arrests from the 2017/2018 season.
5. Could you please supply me with the number of arrest levels from Barnsley FC matches from the 2018/2019 season compared to the number of arrests from the 2017/2018 season.
6. Could you please supply me with the number of arrest levels from Doncaster Rovers matches from the 2018/2019 season compared to the number of arrests from the 2017/2018 season.

**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**

Questions 2 through to 6 above relate to arrest data. The data you have requested above would ordinarily be fairly simple to extract. However, on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 South Yorkshire Police implemented a new recording system (CONNECT) which replaces several 'stand-alone' systems within the organisation such as our Custody Handling System (CHS) and Crime Management System (CMS).

Arrest data prior to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 is held on our legacy system (CHS) and latest arrest data is held on our new CONNECT system. Unfortunately, we are experiencing technical difficulties in extracting data of this nature from the new (CONNECT) system.

The only way in which we would be able to extract this data at this moment in time would be to manually trawl through all custody records for this period and extract any relevant data which meets the criteria of your request. This would, I regret, take us over the 18 hour cost threshold. I am sorry that we have been unable to proceed with your request, without engaging Section 12 (Appropriate Limit) at this moment in time.

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. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

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, I have supplied a link below to information held on our website relating to your request as a gesture of goodwill. I trust this is of interest, 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.**

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/news/2018/june/the-cost-of-policing-football-in-south-yorkshire/>