

12th December 2019

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20193097**

**REQUEST**

**1. Could you please tell me as of now how many football banning orders are active for Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Barnsley, Rotherham United and Doncaster Rovers.**

**2. For Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United could you please list the active banning orders with details for each one of the subject (name, age and address, if possible) why the order was imposed, when it was imposed, how long it is due to run for, the date of the incident which led to the ban, and where this incident happened.**

**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**

Q2-

From requests supplied previously, we have advised that details for this question would take over the 18hr limit allowed by the FOI Act. I have checked with the unit involved to check if there is any change to this.

I approached an Officer within Football Intel for assistance with this request and he has advised:

*In respect of question 2, I'm afraid that I will be unable to satisfactorily answer this request within the 18 hour time limit.*

*There are a total of 67 FBO's across the two Sheffield clubs. Obtaining the level of data requested, potentially extracting from numerous data bases, fact checking and redacting personal data, will take more than 18 hours to complete.*

*As such, I will be unable to perform this level of request within the time frame specified.*

In essence , we would have to manually check and review all the relevant club FBO's to extract the level of detail that meet 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](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, as a gesture of goodwill, 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 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 .**

In respect of question 1, I can confirm that Home Office data shows that there are currently 129 Football Banning Orders in place across the five South Yorkshire clubs. This number is broken down as follows:

Barnsley Football Club – 17 FBO's  
Doncaster Rovers FC – 23 FBO's  
Rotherham United FC – 21 FBO's  
Sheffield United FC – 51 FBO's  
Sheffield Wednesday FC – 16 FBO's

These figures are true and accurate as of the 6th of December 2019, however they are subject to change and may alter in the coming days and weeks.