

14th February 2020

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20200383

REQUEST

I am seeking information concerning the number of times police have attended 'unauthorised encampments'.

Please provide the following information in the form of an Excel document.

1: A yearly breakdown from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2019 of the number of times police have attended an 'unauthorised encampment'.

*2: A yearly breakdown from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2019 of the number of times police have used **section 61 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994** to direct travellers to leave an 'unauthorised encampment'.*

*3: A yearly breakdown from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2019 of the number of times police have used **section 62 of Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994** to evict travellers from an 'unauthorised encampment'.*

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

In regards to Q1 – an officer may attend address or areas as part of investigation, the result of a call or just as part of their policing duties in the district. To find out the number of times officers attended and "unauthorised encampments" would require checking every officer in the force area to see if in the course of their duties they attended a location that may be called an "unauthorised encampment" This would exceed the 18hr time limit allowed by the FOI Act.

For the other questions I also approached South Yorkshire Police four Districts, Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley & Doncaster and our Specialist Crime Services for assistance with your questions. Unfortunately they have all advised this is not recorded by them or recorded centrally so again would require contacting every unit, department and business area within the force to manually collate the information if held.

In essence extract the level of detail to 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