

12 November 2019

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20192302**

**REQUEST**

1. Since 2010, how many reports of cubbing / illegal foxhunting have been made to your force?
2. Since 2010, how many of those reports have been resolved as trail hunting?
3. Since 2010, how many of those investigations resolved as trail hunting have included proof seen and verified by police of the purchase/acquisition of trail fluid for use in said trail hunting?

**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**

Recorded information in relation to your request is most likely to be held on our Incident Management System and most recently our Smart Contact system. Both these systems record the majority of matters requiring the specific deployment of police resources, whether reported by members of the public or 'happened upon' by officers and staff in the course of their duties.

Unfortunately however there is no generic incident title that would enable us to extract incidents which meet the specific criteria of your request. The only way in which this may be possible, is to conduct specific word searches to extract incidents which may be relevant. We receive approximately 1100 recorded incidents a day, where each incident log reads like a running commentary/diary of events that can run to several pages in length. To manually review any likely incidents that meet the criteria of your request is expected to exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

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)