

23 August 2019

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20191742**

**REQUEST**

***Please can you tell me the total number of times the police were called out to unregistered and unregulated residential children's homes in the area covered by your police force over the last three years (2017,2018,2019 so far)?***

***Please break this down by year and explain the reason the police were called (eg missing episode).***

***Please can you tell me the total number of criminal reports/ complaints received about unregistered and unregulated residential children's homes in the area covered by your police force over the last three years (2017,2018,2019 so far)? Please break this down by year.***

***Please also name the provider where possible.***

**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**

Our Crime and Incident Management systems do not flag or record specific locations as 'unregistered' and / or 'unregulated' children's homes. The only way in which we would be able to extract any relevant data is if individual addresses were manually cross referenced on all relevant systems. Whilst the force holds a list of registered homes, I am not aware that the force holds a list of 'unregistered' and / or 'unregulated' children's homes. If one were to be provided, it could be readily argued that we are creating data for the specific purposes of answering a request, which under the FOI act is not a valid request. Should such a list be provided, and aside from creating data, I strongly suspect that the process of cross referencing all systems against the addresses and providing a summary explanation for the reason the police were called would far 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)