

4th August 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20201711

REQUEST

I would like to make the following Freedom of Information request with regards to details of unlicensed music events (UMEs) and/or illegal raves reported to and attended by officers from your police force in 2020 and 2019.

For each UME/illegal rave reported to and attended by officers, I would like to know the following:

- *The date of UME/illegal rave*
- *Its location (as specific as possible)*
- *Details of the event, including the approx. number of people in attendance*
- *Whether any sections were issued*
- *Whether any arrests were made*
- *Whether any equipment or vehicles were seized*
- *Any other details of actions were taken by your police force in regards to the monitoring and termination of each event*

Please provide data for both 2020 and 2019, but with priority given to 2020, up until the most recent date for which data is available.

RESPONSE

There is no crime category 'illegal raves'. So I approached the administrator for South Yorkshire Police's Incident Management System.

The only way in which we could identify data in relation to your request is to review records within our Incident Management System. This system records the majority of calls to South Yorkshire Police requiring the specific deployment of police resources, whether reported by members of the public via 999 or 101 or 'happened upon' by officers and staff in the course of their duties. Each record is a log of events as the incident progresses or unfolds, with very few search fields to extract any meaningful data. There is no generic incident title that meets the criteria of your request. The only way in which we would be able to extract any recorded data is to search for incidents using keywords in the free text areas.

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

The Administrator advised:

We don't have specific opening and closing codes for incidents relating to unlicensed music events or illegal raves, I have searched comments for this words but unfortunately it brings results relating to Raven road, Ravenfield, Rant and Rave and nothing specific linking them to the request.

I have therefore performed a further search based on a closing code of noise, this closing code however covers everything relating to noise full stop and all incidents would need to be read to ascertain if any relate to illegal raves, in total there are 2423 incidents across 2019 & 2020.

In essence, to retrieve and locate the detail to answer your request would require us to manually check over 2000 incidents that were closed as a Noise incident to check if they were about a report for a rave or unlicensed music event. Just allowing 2 minutes per record 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