

30th March 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20210485

REQUEST

For the three years ending April 2020 , can you please provide an up-to-date, month-by-month, year-by-year, breakdown of:

1. The number of crimes, where the offence location is recorded as 'school', for the following offences:

- Possess offensive weapon*
- Possess offensive weapon on school premises*
- Threaten with offensive weapon on school premises*
- Possess firearm etc with intent to endanger life*
- GBH Wounding.*
- Attempted murder/murder*

2. The type of weapon used

3. The age and gender of the offenders and whether they were charged.

4. The name and/or area (town, city etc) of the school, where possible

CLARIFICATION

Please could you clarify the following point(s): -

This type of data has already been provided to you on FOI request 20190548, which I have attached for reference. Would you like us to continue with this request from the dates May 2019 to April 2020?

REQUESTER

Thanks for your email. Yes please.

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

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

Connect Data by Suspect/Offender – This request is based on Suspect/Offender details.

While we hold this data and stats by Offence, to retrieve a further breakdown of i.e.

Offenders outcomes, ages, gender etc, would require a manual search of each record to

extract. This further breakdown will in essence require a review and manual check of each

relevant record and the process would take much longer than the 18 hours allowed by the FOI Act.

Further to the above. Weapon & Weapon usage are not recorded in a retrieval format within the Connect System. To locate and retrieve the data for this element of your request would require reviewing the circumstances of each offence to identify the weapon and how it was used. As this information would be in a free text field we are dependent on full details being inputted. *(Any request for data prior to the commencement of CONNECT 04-DEC-2017 could be broken down by weapon & weapon usage as these were pick list tables within CMS(ii) therefore we could identify weapons and how they were used.)*

In essence to locate, retrieve and extract the data for these elements of your request would exceed the 18hr rule allowed by the FOI Act.

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

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 .

I had however, already approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request.

She has provided me with the attached retrievable data and explanation of her search criteria.

Please see the attached data and the below explanation.

CONNECT Data –

I have provided a count of the specified offences, recorded for CONNECT Crime between 01-Mar-2019 and 28-Feb-2021 where the MO DESC 1 is Location & MO DESC 3 is SCHOOL or NURSERY or the Premises type is SCHOOL or CHILDRENS NURSERY.

Please note – this dataset is reliant of the recording of the above MO Desc and/or Premises Type, however this are not mandated requirements therefore results may not accurately reflect what is potentially recorded for CONNECT Crime.