

8<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20200803**

**REQUEST**

***Please can you tell me how many children (as defined as a person under 18) were investigated by your force on suspicion of committing sexual offences in 2017, 2018 and 2019?***

***When you give me the information, please can you provide me with a breakdown of each child's: - age - gender - which sexual offence they were being investigated on suspicion of - the status/outcome of the investigation for each of the years separately***

**RESPONSE**

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

Unfortunately given the current situation the Administrator is not currently working in police premises and cannot access the software needed to extract data from CMS (legacy system) we will provide this as soon as we are able to do so. Her explanation is as follows:

*CMS(ii) Data -*

*Given the present situation, I am currently working from home and cannot access the software needed to extract data from CMS(ii), however I will provide this as soon as I am able to do so but I cannot currently provide data for dates 01- Jan 2017 – 04-Dec-2017.*

In respect of data from December 2017 to 2019.

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**

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.

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](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)