

14th April 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20210578

REQUEST

For each of the last two years to date, I would like to know:

1.The total number of crimes of a violent nature including assaults, attacks, GBH offences recorded in which a man is the victim, and separately, in which a woman is the victim in Sheffield.

Please also break down whether the suspect in each case was identified as male, female or unknown

2.The total number of crimes of a sexual nature including sex assault and serious sex assault, rape etc, offences recorded in which a man is the victim, and separately, in which a woman is the victim in Sheffield.

Please also break down whether the suspect in each case was identified as male, female or unknown

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

In order to assist me with your request, I have contacted our Crime Administrator, who conducted a search of our Connect System. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

In respect of 'suspect' information, we would need to retrieve and review all the offences at record level, which number over 11,000 to extract the gender of the suspect. In essence, this process would take longer than the 18 hours' work as guided under 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

The Crime Management Data Returns Administrator has provided the following explanation and attached data:-

I have provided a count of the Home Office Offence Classes Sexual Assault, Rape and Violence with Injury where the offence was recorded for CONNECT Crime between 01-Apr-2019 and 31-Mar-2021 where the District is Sheffield, with a breakdown of the Victim's Gender.

Please note –

- We do not expect a count of Victims to reflect a count of offences as more than one victim can be recorded on some offences.

This dataset is reliant on the above conditions being applied and does not take into account any of the following –

- Whether or not there is a suspect recorded on the offence
- Suspect to Victim Relationship (if recorded with a suspect)
- Suspect's Gender (if recorded with a suspect)