

3rd November 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202107

REQUEST

Could I please request the following for the time period to January 1st 2020 to September 30th 2020

- 1. All child abduction and kidnapping related calls received by your force.*
- 2. All recorded incidents of child abduction by a parent (category 13/1), and the duration of these incidents, and if harm occurred (please note if they are ongoing)*
- 3. The number of recorded individuals who were victims of child abduction by a parent*
- 4. All recorded incidents of child abduction by other persons (category 13/2) and the duration of these incidents, and if harm occurred (please note if they are ongoing).*
- 5. The number of recorded in individuals who were victims of child abduction by other persons.*
- 6. All recorded incidents of the kidnapping of a person under the age of 18, with data for categories 36/1, 36/3, and 35/5.*
- 7. All recorded under 18 victims of kidnapping.*

If it would be possible to receive the information requested in a table that shows date, type of crime (as per categories) if harm was caused and the duration, and a separate table for victims, that would be very helpful.

CLARIFICATION

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

You are asking for Incidents/calls. These are recorded on our Incident Management System, Smart. The Smart 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. The log runs as a running commentary of an incident as it unfolds and has limited search capability. The detail you are requesting may not even be in the Incident Log.

In this instance it may be more beneficial to go to our Crime Management System for Offence counts and details.

FROM THE REQUESTER

I'm happy for this to be viewed under offence count rather than incidents or calls.

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 exemptions apply to the disclosure of the information:

Section 40(2) Personal Information.

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption.

Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. Information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed into the public domain, effectively to the world, not just to one individual. Although not explicitly naming individuals, the cumulative effect of a full disclosure ie offence title, injuries incurred, by age, still under investigation and in such a recent time scale may potentially lead to the identification of those involved. This would be breaching the right to privacy afforded to persons under the Data Protection Act 1998.

To mitigate any concerns I have provide data in a tabled format.

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'.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

Please see the attached data and below explanation.

I have included a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 01-Jan-2020 and 30-Sep-2020 where the Home Office Offence Class is Child Abduction or Kidnapping (if the victim's age at incident is under 18 years). I have provided a break down by the current Crime Status and by the Injuries Sustained flag - Yes or No.

Please note – No offences of Child Abduction - Abduction of a child by parent were recorded for this date period.

The administrator provided raw data of the attached Offences. The "IP Injuries Details" is a free text field which I have checked to see if Injury detail has been inputted. Where available I have collated onto a separate table below.

Injury type
Biting
Burn
Grazing
Kicking
Head Injury
Pulling of hair
Punching
Reddening to eye area
Strangulation