

8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 22.009048**

**REQUEST**

1. How many crimes reported to your force were closed without a suspect being identified between 2017 and 2022?
2. How many total crimes were reported to the force in the same period?
3. Can you also provide a breakdown of the information with regards to type of crime (burglary, assault, sexual assault, etc). Can I have that data broken down by calendar years?

**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**

You have requested data from 2017 to 2022. During this period, South Yorkshire Police switched to a new Crime Management system – Connect. Whilst data prior to 2018 is still held on our legacy system, it is no longer in use and data cannot be readily extracted without a manual trawl. As such, any request for data prior to this date will regrettably engage Section 12 – cost exemption. In order to provide you with some data which we hope will be of some use, and to avoid engaging Section 12, we have provided data from the point at which crimes were recorded on the new system Connect. This system is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as ‘crimes’.

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)

Our Data Returns Officer has provided the attached spreadsheets and the following explanation.

Criteria Used - Incident Created Date is between 01/01/2018 and 31/12/2022, SYP & crime only filter