

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20221581**

**REQUEST**

- Please disclose every incident recorded since January 1 2021 that contain one or more of the following search terms: 'Stag' 'Stags' 'Hen' 'Hens'
- Please disclose the incident exactly as it was recorded on each log, redacting any identifiable information which may prohibit disclosure.

For example: 'A male called (redacted) claimed that members of a stag party assaulted him outside of a nightclub in Front Street, leaving him with head injuries'

- For each incident, please also disclose the time/date/location of the incident.

**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(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

I approached our Communications Centre for assistance with your request. An analyst within this unit has conducted a search of our Incident Management System – Storm. This 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. She has provided the following feedback:

*Unfortunately because we have a location called 'Stag & Stag Roundabout' it is bringing up hundreds of results so I have to run the report per month [to avoid crashing the system]. Do you want me to continue? There is a possibility it will bring back thousands.*

'stag' in the name. The only way of extracting incidents pertinent to your request would be to manually review each one to exclude those that are not applicable. Each incident log reads like a running commentary/diary of events that can run to several pages in length, depending on the nature of the incident. It is estimated that it would take at least 2 minutes to review each record to ascertain whether it is relevant or not, which at a very conservative estimate is likely to take in excess of 33 hours for just 1000 records. This process will far exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

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. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

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)

Under Section 16 I have a duty to offer advice and assistance. If you were to refine your request to exclude the word 'stag' or request a search in relation to 'Stag / Hen Do' or 'Stag/Hen Party' this may bring the request within the cost limits. If this is a route which you would like to pursue further, may I also mention that the second and third parts of your request in terms of identifying any personal information / identifiers within each incident returned may prove burdensome (exempt under Section 14).