

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20190043**

**REQUEST**

Could you please provide me with yearly data for each of the last five years (2014-2018), broken down by local area, for the following:

1. The number of raids carried out on brothels by South Yorkshire Police.
2. The amount of cash seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act during raids carried out on brothels by South Yorkshire Police.
3. The amount of cash returned to South Yorkshire Police under the asset recovery incentivisation scheme (ARIS), having previously been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act during raids carried out on brothels by South Yorkshire Police.
4. The number of prostitution cautions issued by South Yorkshire Police.
5. The number of sex workers identified by South Yorkshire Police as potential victims of trafficking.
6. The number of sex workers referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by South Yorkshire Police.
7. The number of sex workers referred to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) by South Yorkshire Police, who were conclusively identified as a victim of trafficking by the Competent Authority.

**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**

We have received similar requests to this in the recent past. Our District Business Managers have previously advised that in order to try and locate, retrieve and extract any data in relation to your request for their respective districts (Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster) it would exceed the 18 hours Appropriate Limit. To provide a little more context, I have been advised that information held in regard to Question 1 for example is recorded by address and not in a format which could enable us to simple search under a category of 'brothels' or 'brothel raids' for example. To provide any information relating to questions 1 and 2 therefore would require a manual trawl through all our documents held to establish both the circumstances and whether any cash was seized.

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)