

08 February 2017

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20170259**

**REQUEST**

1. ***How many missing people cases did your force deal with during 2016?***
2. ***Out of those cases how many of the missing people were suffering from either dementia or alzheimer's disease?***
3. ***How many hours of police time were taken up in 2016 looking for missing people with dementia or alzheimer's?***
4. ***What is the cost of this to the force?***

**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 contacted our Analysis Manager for assistance with your request. He advised that to address your request in full would exceed the Appropriate Limit permitted under FOI legislation. This is because there is no 'tag' on a missing person record to state that the individual missing suffers from dementia or Alzheimer's disease, therefore we would need to manually review each Missing Person record to determine if there is a mention of this within the record. Even with a very optimistic estimate of 1 minute per record, this process would exceed 100 hours' of work

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)

**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 .**

Q1

There were 6589 missing reports recorded in SYP in 2016.

Q3 & Q4

This information is not recorded; much of the time looking for individuals will be in Duty Time and therefore impossible to quantify.