

19 February 2019

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20190252**

**REQUEST**

1. How much money do clubs in your area contribute to policing football matches for the seasons 2003/2004, 2006/2007, 2009/2010, 2013/2014, 2016/2017, 2017/2018? Could you please give a figure for each of Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Doncaster Rovers and Rotherham United?
2. Can you provide me with the figures for how many arrests were made at matches at clubs in this area in the seasons 2003/2004, 2006/2007, 2009/2010, 2013/2014, 2016/2017, 2017/2018? Could you please give a figure for each of Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Doncaster Rovers and Rotherham United?
3. In total, how much was spent on policing football matches in the seasons 2003/2004, 2006/2007, 2009/2010, 2013/2014, 2016/2017, 2017/2018? Could you please give a figure for each of Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Doncaster Rovers and Rotherham United?
4. Can you please supply me with the average level of policing per match in each of the following seasons, 2003/2004, 2006/2007, 2009/2010, 2013/2014, 2016/2017, 2017/2018? Could you please give a figure for each of Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Doncaster Rovers and Rotherham United?
5. Can you please provide me the number of people arrested at football matches involving each of these clubs in the seasons 2003/2004, 2006/2007, 2009/2010, 2013/2014, 2016/2017, 2017/2018? Could you please give a figure for each of Sheffield United, Sheffield Wednesday, Doncaster Rovers and Rotherham United?

**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**

You are requesting a significant amount of data which is not readily available and would certainly exceed the 18 hour cost threshold to provide answers to just some of your questions. As an example, arrest data in relation to question 2 (and 5) is held on our Custody Handling System. This records the arrest under the offence title rather than the location. The only way in which we would be able to extract data in relation to specific club football matches is to review all arrests made at the club locations on the specific match dates across all of the years. The results of which would need to be manually reviewed to ascertain whether or not the arrest was directly related to the specific matches. This process would easily exceed the 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)

**Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied a link below to some information relating to your request as a gesture of goodwill. 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.**

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/news/2018/june/the-cost-of-policing-football-in-south-yorkshire/>