

14th January 2020

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20193512

REQUEST

I am writing to make an open government request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please send me:

The number of arrests made at Bramall Lane, Hillsborough, New York Stadium, Keepmoat Stadium linked to a football match between January 1, 2018 and December 30, 2018.

The number of arrests made at Bramall Lane, Hillsborough, New York Stadium, Keepmoat Stadium linked to a football match between January 1, 2017 and December 30, 2017.

The number of arrests made at Bramall Lane, Hillsborough, New York Stadium, Keepmoat Stadium linked to a football match between January 1, 2016 and December 30, 2016.

The number of arrests made at Bramall Lane, Hillsborough, New York Stadium, Keepmoat Stadium linked to a football match between January 1, 2015 and December 30, 2015.

The details of the alleged offences for each of the above

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

Arrest data is held on our Custody Handling System (CHS) and Connect Crime Recording System. The Administrator has advised:

The arrest location is recorded as a free text field (on both CONNECT and CHS), and no record is made of whether the arrest related to a football match. so it will be impossible to extract this information for you.

As the systems records arrests by arrest title rather than the location or reason (in this case football) The only way in which we would be able to extract data in relation to your request is to manually review every arrest made in the time parameters 2015 to 2018, to firstly find out the location of an arrest, and then to see if they relate to football and a local club. An arrest

may be football related but not in the ground or immediate area so all surrounding areas and city centres would also need to be checked.

In essence, we would have to review and manually check all Arrests to extract the level of detail to meet the criteria of your request; this process would take much longer than 18 hours' 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.

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