

1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202314**

**REQUEST**

***I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information.***

***Please could you let me know:***

- How many sexual offenses were recorded by your police department at schools, in the last three academic years?***
- For these alleged offenses, please could you let me know the ages of victims, in the last three academic years?***
- How many of the suspects of these alleged offenses were under 18, in the last three academic years?***

**CLARIFICATION**

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/sexual-offences-schools-ref-20192603/>

We do not record by academic year would financial year or calendar year be suitable for your research?

**FROM THE REQUESTER**

***Many thanks for your email. That is the information I am looking for, but I am looking for different years - so please can we proceed with my FOI request.***

**RESPONSE**

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

In respect to the Offender data from Connect - December 2017 to date.

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

Connect Data breakdown by Offender age – This part of your request is based on Offender details. We are reliant of the age at the time of the incident being correctly inputted and recorded, each offence would have to be reviewed at record level to potentially identify if the correct Age is recorded and investigation/paperwork checked.

This further breakdown will in essence require a review and manual check of each relevant record and potentially cross referencing with the Officer in Charges paperwork and the process would take much longer than the 18 hours allowed by the FOI Act.

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](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 .**

Please see the attached spreadsheet for data that doesn't trigger the above exemption.

*CMS(II) Data -*

*I have provided a count of Sexual Offences where the Crime Scene Premises Type is School where the offence was recorded on the CMS(II) Crime Register between 01-Sep-2017 and 04-Dec-2017. Of the offence count, I have provided the number of victims by age group and the number of suspects under the age of 18 at the time of the offence.*

*CONNECT Data –*

*I have provided a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 04-Dec-2017 and 31-Oct-2020 where the Premises Type is School or the MO DESC 3 is School. Of the offence count, I have provided the number of victims by age group at the time of the offence. I used the Person Role - Age at Incident for all counts.*

*I have provided a count of offences and a breakdown of the Person Roles Age at Incident if the Person Role is Victim.*

*Some offences have been recorded for the month of August, without reviewing these at record level, I cannot determine the circumstances of offence.*

*Please note - We would not expect a count of suspects and victims to reflect a count of offences as some offences maybe recorded with more than one victim or suspect or with no suspects currently recorded.*