

7 September 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20181423

REQUEST

Please could you provide me with information about your organisation's ICT expenditure as detailed in the attached template.

I fully expect that you may not be able to provide all the information I am looking for. If this is the case, please provide me with as much information as you can within the template. For example: you may be able to sub-totals for some categories, or provide information for only for certain years.

Within the response, please include:

- Expenditure from all parts of your organisation (centralised IT and departmental IT);*
- As well as your own organisation, expenditure for any subsidiary organisations that fall within the scope of your accounts; and,*
- Both revenue (or operating) expenditure and capital expenditure.*

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 approached our Corporate Finance Department for assistance with your request. Our Operational Management Accountant has provided the following comments after attempting to provide you with the requested data:

This week we have spent to date 2days trying to complete the request into the format requested and I estimate we will need further time to complete the task which will exceed 18hr per force. The issue in providing this data is

The IS Budget is complex due to the Services cost and budget being shared by the two forces and other budgets being force specific. So although we provide the cost and set a budget for the Service to each force we do not provided the data in the format and definitions requested. The length of time we need to reanalyse and recalculate and reapportion across the two forces to match the definitions provided by the requestor that will take us over the 18hrs.

I can advise that each force provides to CIPFA – Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy two returns a) Bench Marking and b) Police Objective Analysis POA. These returns provide details of the ICT budget and are published by CIPFA.

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