

24th March 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20210154

REQUEST

How many complaints have been made to the force involving OnlyFans, the content subscription service, from January 1st 2016 until and including 31st December 2020.

Please provide a breakdown of complaints by month and year, type of crime (e.g. child sexual exploitation, revenge porn, sextortion etc.) and age of alleged victim (aged 18 or over, or under the age of 18).

Clarification

Can you clarify your request for 'complaints' - are you requesting for the number of complaints that have been reported to our Professional Standards Department, or are you asking for crimes investigated that 'OnlyFans' have been involved?

Reply to Clarification

Yes crimes is correct

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. There are two crime management systems that are used, CMS – our legacy system which provides data up to the 4th December 2017, and the Connect System which records crimes from that date onwards. These are used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

I can confirm that South Yorkshire Police holds information relating to the criteria of your request, but I am not prepared to disclose this to you in full.

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 40 (2) - Personal Information

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption. Section 40 provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term

'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. Information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is disclosed into the public domain, effectively to the world, not just to one individual.

Due to the low numbers involved it would be unfair to disclose all this information under the Freedom of Information Act, as it would effectively be releasing it to the world and this would breach the right to privacy afforded to persons under the Data Protection Act 2018

With this in mind, I am prepared to disclose as much detail as possible without triggering the above exemption.

I have reviewed the data provided by the administrator and can provided the following data:-

There are 4 Offences recorded between 2016 – 2020

All are from 2020

All victims are aged over 18 years of age

The Home Office Sub group Name of Offences: -
1 x Public Fear, Alarm or Distress
1 x Other Theft
2 x Stalking and Harassment