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10th April 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/01424

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/01424

I write in connection with your request for information received on 14th March. I note you seek access to the following information:

The number of arrests made related to sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape and similar crimes in workplaces for the following periods:

2012/2013
2013/2014
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18- to present

I also request the following:

The number of crimes reports related to sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape and similar crimes in workplaces for the following periods:

2012/2013
2013/2014
2014/15
2015/16
2016/17
2017/18- to present

The information should be broken down by postcode/area.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response - Where our Crime Information System has a data field which represents the type venue where a crime has taken place e.g. Shop, Licensed Premises, Business Premises etc. – there would be no way of ascertaining whether or not the location concerned was the workplace of the Victim / Suspect or that they were there for other reasons, for example as a customer without reading the detailed free text of the Crime Report. With hundreds of sexual offences reported in Hertfordshire per year this would far exceed the time limit.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –

“(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2)Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Hertfordshire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.