



James Hodson  
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16th April 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/01458

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/01458**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 15th March. I note you seek access to the following information:

**Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with full answers to each of the following questions:**

- 1. What is the current minimum staffing level for a) weekdays b) weeknights c) weekend nights in your force?**
- 2. If you do not have an overall one, what are the minimum staffing levels for each division / custody unit / police station in your force area?**
- 3. How many times since January 1st 2017 have any of these minimum staffing levels been breached?**
- 4. Have any improvement notices been issued against your force (likely by the local Police Federation branch) for failing to ensure safe staffing levels, since January 1st 2017?**

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** - To answer this request would need a full time allocated resource and it would take longer than the time given to produce the information.

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 of the Freedom of Information Act.

- Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –
- *“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.”*
- Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Bedfordshire Police, 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 of the Freedom of Information Act.
- In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 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  
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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.