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9th August 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/03000

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/03000

I write in connection with your request for information received on 1st June. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to you on behalf of Action for Children, a UK children's charity. Please consider the following questions as a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Any additional information you can offer would also be gratefully received.

1. How many children and young people (aged up to 18) were recorded by the police as present in the family home when domestic abuse incidents took place in each of the following financial years?

- a. 2010/11
- b. 2015/16
- c. 2016/17

2. How many children aged five and under were recorded by the police as present in the family home when domestic abuse incidents took place in each of the following financial years?

- a. 2010/11
- b. 2015/16
- c. 2016/17

3. Of these children and young people in question one, how many were referred to children's social care services/Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)?

4. Of the incidents of domestic abuse involving children (aged up to 18), how many led to the police informing the child's school or college that an incident had taken place?

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 - Hertfordshire Constabulary do not centrally record the information that you have requested. To collate this information our data analysts would be required to manually check each individual domestic abuse offence since 2010 to determine whether it relates to your request.

Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require hundreds of records to be manually checked.

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.

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 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.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

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.