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26th January 2018

Our Ref: FOI2017/01874

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2017/01874

I write in connection with your request for information received on 29th December. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please may I request the following information under the FOI act:

- 1) The number of individuals who have been held in police custody whose address is recorded as no fixed abode or no address, or who have no address recorded, per calendar month for 2015 (ie. January 2015: 10, February 2015: 15, etc);**
- 2) The number of individuals who have been held in police custody whose address is recorded as no fixed abode or no address, or who have no address recorded, per calendar month for 2016 (ie. January 2016: 10, February 2016: 15, etc);**
- 3) The number of individuals who have been held in police custody whose address is recorded as no fixed abode or no address, or who have no address recorded, per calendar month for 2017 (ie. January 2017: 10, February 2017: 15, etc); and**
- 4) The number of days between 1 January 2017 to date that new admissions to police custody have been halted.**

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 – In order to obtain this information, each custody record would have to be examined manually to find the address given by the detainee at the time they were in custody, since 2015, to which there are thousands.

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 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 (2) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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
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.