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Our Ref: FOI2017/01706

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2017/01706**

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

**I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.**

**Where possible (without exceeding the cost limit), please could you provide case studies that illustrate the issues raised in each question.**

**1. a) Over the last 12 months, how many hours have police officers spent with individuals detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act while waiting for the mental health trust to carry out an assessment?**

**b) Please could you provide the five longest assessment delays where police officers were required to be present with an individual detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act; and the reasons for these delays (e.g. unavailability of doctors or AMHPs)?**

**2. a) Over the last 12 months, how many times have arrested individuals been unlawfully detained in a police station while waiting for the mental health trust to take responsibility for the person concerned?**

**2. b) What were the five longest detention periods in the police station while waiting for the mental health trust to take responsibility for the arrested person concerned; and the reasons for these delays (e.g. assessment delays, admissions delays due to bed unavailability or ambulance delays)?**

**3. a) Over the last 12 months, how many times have police officers had to wait with a person in need of medical attention whilst waiting for an ambulance to arrive?**

**3. b) What were the five longest periods of time police officers spent waiting with a person in need of medical attention whilst waiting for an ambulance to arrive?**

**4. Over the last 12 months, how many times have people been conveyed to hospital in a police vehicle due to the unavailability of an ambulance?**

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 you have requested. Custody records are archived in paper format and not digitally. Therefore each custody record would require a manual check to see if it is relevant to your request, to which there are thousands. This would vastly exceed the 18 hours as stated in the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

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  
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.