



James Hodson
Information Rights
Bedfordshire Police Headquarters,
Woburn Road, Kempston,
Bedford, MK43 9AX

Telephone: 01234 842547
Email: foi@herts.pnn.police.uk

5th July 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/01806

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/01806

I write in connection with your request for information received on 5th April. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information from your organisation.

1) All free text entries into your forces incident log, between the dates 1st January 2018 to the 31st March 2018, that contain the specific words or phrases “knife”, “knives”, “sharp object” or “bladed object”. Along with the free text entry to the log where the aforementioned phrases are used, please also provide the data that identifies the date and time of the recorded incident.

2) The name and version of the database software that your force currently uses to record all incidents.

3) The associated data dictionary that accompanies the database software your force currently uses to record incidents.

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 – Searches have been made on our Incident recording system for incidents that contain the specific words ‘knife’, ‘knives’, ‘sharp object’ and ‘bladed object’. These searches returned 1600 incidents that contained these specific words.

In order to respond to this request we would be entitled to manually check each incident report and redact any details that may identify an individual as to not breach Section 40(2) Personal 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 (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.