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1st May 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/01752

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/01752

I write in connection with your request for information received on 3rd April. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please could you supply the following data in an Excel spreadsheet or .csv.

1. How many children did you identify as victims of CSE in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?
2. How many children did you identify as at risk of CSE in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?
3. How many CSE crimes did you investigate in 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?
4. How many CSE crimes are you currently investigating? Please provide the approximate date of the oldest crime (month and year).
5. How many CSE victims on record since 2013-14 were female?
6. How many CSE victims on record since 2013-14 were male?
7. How many CSE offenders on record since 2013-14 were female?
8. How many CSE offenders on record since 2013-14 were male?
9. Please provide the number and % breakdown of ethnicity of all CSE victims on record since 2013-14, specifically White, Black, Asian, other, unknown/not recorded
10. Please provide the number and % breakdown of ethnicity of all CSE offenders on record since 2013-14, specifically White, Black, Asian, other, unknown/not recorded

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.

Response - Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below;

The information you have requested is not easily retrievable from the system and also not recorded for some questions such as ethnicity. Each report will require manual examination to ascertain the relevance 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. This letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, I am able to provide the following information relative to your request, retrieved before the fees limit was exceeded. I hope this is helpful however; it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. Below is the number of referrals recorded by the Halo team;

01/01/13 – 31/12/13 – 59

01/01/14 – 31/12/14 – 182

01/01/15 – 31/12/15 – 388

01/01/16 – 31/12/16 – 273

01/01/17 - 31/12/17 – 281

01/01/18 – 03/04/18 – 73

Hertfordshire Constabulary can neither confirm nor deny that we hold any other information relevant to the whole of your request by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information relating to security bodies listed at Section 23 (3)

The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3).

This is an absolute exemption and I am therefore not required to complete a public interest test.

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

Sonia Chopra-Miah
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.