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12th September 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/04553

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/04553**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 15th August. I note you seek access to the following information:

**I would like to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act:**

**1. A list of all crimes reported where the victim's red/ginger hair was a factor in the offence during the 2015, 2016 and 2017 calendar years.**

**Please include:**

- a) A description of the offence
- b) The location
- c) The date reported (DD/MM/YYYY)
- d) The most recent crime outcome

**2. A list of all hate incidents where the victim's red/ginger hair was a factor in the offence during the 2015, 2016 and 2017 calendar years.**

**Please include:**

- a) A description of the incident as recorded
- b) The location
- c) The date reported (DD/MM/YYYY)

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** – As this information is not centrally recorded our data analysts would have to read each crime report from the requested years to decipher if the victim had red/ginger hair.

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.