



Information Rights
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15th January 2020

Our Ref: FOI2019/07863

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/07863

I write in connection with your request for information received on 16th December. I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to request the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 1. The number of referrals to children's social care that have been made as a result of the Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme in the calendar years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 (up to the most recent point for which figures are available).

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.

There are 276 recorded CSOD applications on our computer systems. Unfortunately each of the records would need to be read to understand if a referral was sent to Children's Services. There is no other search method on our pre-Athena crime recording system. We have created an advanced search on Athena and found that since 23/05/2018 (when Athena started in Herts) to date 53 CSODS investigations were created of which 3 are shown to have a referral sent to Social Care.

Having spoken to the Public Protection Unit they have however advised they do not always complete the referral tab on the CSODS record and in fact may create a new record for a referral to be sent (this would not be picked up in the search as it would have a different classification). This means it would be very difficult to determine an accurate answer to the question asked.

Searching each record individually in order to answer your questions would therefore take longer than the 18 hours stipulated under FOI legislation.

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

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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.