



**WEST YORKSHIRE  
POLICE**

## ***Information Management***

### **Freedom Of Information**

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Website: [www.westyorkshire.police.uk](http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk)

Our ref: 5444/20  
Date: 21/10/2020

Dear L. James,

Thank you for your request for information, received by West Yorkshire Police on 23/09/20.

You requested the following information:

1. How many people aged 10-17 were arrested FOR ANY OFFENCE over the following months in 2019:

March 2019

April 2019

May 2019

June 2019

July 2019

August 2019

September 2019

2. How many people aged 10-17 were arrested FOR ANY OFFENCE over the following months in 2020:

March 2020

April 2020

May 2020

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020

Please see the table below showing arrests of 10 to 17 year olds, 01/03/2019-30/09/2019 and 01/03/2020-22/09/2020.

Month	Arrests
Mar-19	328
Apr-19	277
May-19	243
Jun-19	289
Jul-19	336
Aug-19	339
Sep-19	278
Mar-20	285
Apr-20	237
May-20	248

Jun-20	250
Jul-20	284
Aug-20	253
Sep-20	198

#### Notes

Figures represent the number of arrests made (not individuals) during the period where:

- the detainee was aged between 10 and 17 years old at the time of arrest

September 2020 figures cover the period 01/09/2020 to 22/09/2020

3. How many people aged 10-17 were arrested under the Coronavirus Act 2020 over the following months:

March 2020

April 2020

May 2020

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020

4. How many people OF ANY AGE were arrested under the Coronavirus Act 2020 over the following months:

March 2020

April 2020

May 2020

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020

There is an intention for this information to be made publicly available in the future, therefore, at the current time this information is exempt by virtue of Section 22 – Information Intended for future publication.

Please see Appendix A for the full legislative explanation.

## COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are not satisfied with how this request has been handled or with the information provided, please read the advice notice attached to this letter. If you do wish to take up your right of complaint, please remember to quote the reference number above, in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Dawson  
Disclosure Officer

## **Appendix A**

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 creates a statutory right of access to information held by public authorities. A public authority in receipt of a request must, if permitted, state under Section 1(a) of the Act, whether it holds the requested information and, if held, then communicate that information to the applicant under Section 1(b) of the Act.

The right of access to information is not without exception and is subject to a number of exemptions which are designed to enable public authorities, to withhold information that is unsuitable for release. Importantly the Act is designed to place information into the public domain. Information is granted to one person under the Act, it is then considered public information and must be communicated to any individual, should a request be received.

### **DECISION**

Your request for information has been considered and I regret to inform you that West Yorkshire Police cannot comply. This letter serves as a Refusal Notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 17 of the Act provides:

(1) A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is to any extent relying on a claim that information is exempt information must, within the time for complying with Section 1(1), give the applicant a notice which:-

- (a) States the fact,
- (b) Specifies the exemption in question, and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The reason that we are unable to provide you with this information is covered by the following exemption:

Section 22(1) Information Intended for future publication.

*“(1) Information is exempt information if—*

- (a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),*
- (b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and*
- (c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph”*

This is a qualified and class-based exemption and as such a public interest test is required.

### **Factors favouring disclosure**

Openness and accountability of public authorities is of significant importance hence the commitment to disclose this information. Disclosure would provide the public with a more up to date representation which in turn would allow more accurate and relevant public debate.

### **Factors favouring non-disclosure**

There has been an intention to publish the requested information prior to receiving this request. This intention was made on 23/03/20.

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice/our-services/information-requests/publication-strategies/publication-strategies>

West Yorkshire Police are currently carrying out ongoing work in order for this publication to be made. Crime figures may be subject to further investigation, reclassification and cancelling and will therefore change over time. To disclose prematurely would be reckless and has the potential to leave the information open to misinterpretation. Once the information has been collated, checked, verified and confirmed it will be published. At this time it would not be in the public interest to disrupt the ongoing process. To do so for the purpose of an FOI would be a wasteful use of public funds.

### **Balancing Test**

In this case, there are factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure. The main factor favouring disclosure is openness and accountability however the impact of this factor is reduced by virtue of the West Yorkshire Police's pre-existing intention to publish the information.

The main factor favouring non-disclosure is the fact that the information will be made available, in due course.

As such, it is my decision that the public interest at this time lies in non-disclosure for the reasons outlined above.

## COMPLAINT RIGHTS

### 1. Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to request that West Yorkshire Police review their decision. Prior to lodging a formal complaint, we encouraged that you discuss the decision with the case officer that has dealt with your request.

### 2. Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again, is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter. That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

### 3. Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of West Yorkshire Police, made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding access to information, you can lodge a written complaint to have the decision internally reviewed.

A West Yorkshire Police internal review of your decision, will be carried out by a senior member of staff who is fully trained in interpreting Freedom of Information legislation. The review will be independent conducted, regardless to the original decision made.

Complaints will only be treated as valid, if they are received by West Yorkshire Police within a 60 day timeframe from the date of the decision letter. They must include the original FOI Reference Number and can only be submitted in writing, by using the following contact details:

[foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk)

or

West Yorkshire Police  
FOI Internal Reviews  
PO Box 9  
Laburnum Road  
Wakefield  
WF1 3QP

In all possible circumstances, West Yorkshire Police will aim to complete and respond to your internal review within 20 working days. However this date may be extended in exceptional circumstances, by another 20 working days.

### 4. The Information Commissioner

If you are still dissatisfied with the internal review decision, made by West Yorkshire Police. You can then make an application to the Information Commissioner, for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Alternatively, you can phone their helpline or write to them at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
FOI Help Line: 0303 1231113