



M Nah
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Direct line
020 7601 2287

Your ref:
Our ref:
FOI2020/00885

12th August 2020

Dear M Nah,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REF: FOI2020/00885

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12th August in which you seek access to the information stated:

I would like to submit a Freedom of Information request to obtain the following information about the personal details that are recorded by our officers when witnesses complete a witness form (MG11):

- 1) Please state the number of cases where contact details forms associated with witness statements have the self-defined ethnicity recorded as "NS not stated" and also include a police defined ethnicity code.*
- 2) For the cases in 1), please list the number cases with a break down of the ethnic codes assigned by the police, e.g.*

*Year 20XX
Number; Ethnicity (identity code)
11 ; IC1
22; IC2
33; IC3
44 ; IC4*

and so on....

Please provide data from the last ten years.

Please accept this letter as an acknowledgement of receipt of your request, which has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). (FOIA)

DECISION

The City of London Police (COLP) are unable to answer your request as the information requested cannot be collated within the timeframe/cost threshold set out by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Act Fees Regulations 2004.

Section 12 1(1)

Please note that data relating to witness statements is not held in a structured format, therefore to accurately extract the data requested, a manual review would be required of all recorded MG11s held by CoLP within the last 10 years. This would involve trawling through thousands of cases to retrieve the data in the format requested. Therefore, I estimate that the cost of complying with your request would exceed the appropriate limit. For agencies outside of central Government, this is set at £450 and represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours [at a rate of £25 per hour] determining whether the public authority holds the information. This also includes locating, retrieving and extracting the information requested. This email constitutes a formal Refusal Notice for this request. A full explanation of this decision, including the relevant sections of the Act and the Fees Regulations, is given in the Legal Annex below.

DUTY TO ADVISE AND ASSIST

Under Section 16 of the Act, there is a duty to advise applicants in making requests for information.

Due to the sheer scope and volume of the information requested and the unstructured manner in which the information is held, unfortunately I cannot advise as to how to bring the request within the cost threshold set out by the FOIA.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request or the decision which has been reached, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests must be submitted within two months of the date of this response and should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information
Information Management Services
Bishopsgate Police Station
182 Bishopsgate
EC2M 4NP
E-mail: foi@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk

Please mark your complaint clearly and remember to quote the reference number in all correspondence. You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning his investigation.

Yours sincerely,

Ivan Chardakov