



Our Ref: 002482/19

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Linda Dempsey, Information Management

Date 08 August 2019

Dear Poppy Damon

I write in connection with your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), received on 08/07/2019 in which you requested the following information: -

Please find below a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The data I require relates to Return Home Interviews (RHI), child exploitation and missing children

When you respond with confirmation that you have received my request, could you please advise whether any clarification is needed in order to complete my request? Please ensure any questions arrive to me prior to the 20 day deadline.

My questions are:

- + How many instances of missing children did you have reported to you Jan 2017-Jan 2019? Can you send gender/age/location/outcome breakdown? Please can you also indicate how many different children were reported missing for comparison.*
- + Can you send me your information sharing protocols from local authority Return Home Interviews, if you have any? Please indicate if you do not.*
- + If a senior member of staff is happy to offer an opinion - would you say you feel enough information is being shared with you by local authorities from return interviews? (Y/N) Do you have any data gathering mechanisms for whether child exploitation happens in particular areas and is this database supported by information gained from information sharing with the local authority?*
- + How many times was child exploitation reported to you in connection with a Return Home Interview Jan 2014-Jan 2019?*

I can confirm, pursuant to s1(1)(a) of FOIA that this Force does hold the information you have requested.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Leicestershire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption(s) applicable to the information are as follows.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

To provide **all detailed** and statistical data covering a two year period for the entire force area would take in excess of 18 hours, however to assist you I have provided the Outcome data only including 'Found' , (more detail is included in some other options (highlighted in yellow).

For part two of your request,
Government guidance on missing children is easily available via the link below, including 'Return Home Interviews' and 'Collecting, sharing and analysing data on children who go missing'.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307867/Statutory_Guidance -
Missing from care 3 .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307867/Statutory_Guidance_-_Missing_from_care_3.pdf)

The Guidance states that Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) should 'ensure that partners from children's social care, police, health, education and other services work effectively together'. The onus is on the local authorities to share Return Home Interviews with the police, where appropriate, not the other way around. In regards to the times we do need to share relevant information, normal Data Protection Act (DPA) would be applicable. I do not believe we have a specific information sharing agreement (ISA).

Your question three is asking for someone to 'offer an opinion' this would not fall under the remit of a genuine FOI request. Guidance from the ICO on what a member of the public can request can be found below:

<https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/official-information/>

For question four, Section 12 is engaged as it will take over the allotted timescale to retrieve the crime numbers, specifically in regards to those with connections to Return Home Interviews

In order to retrieve **all** the information you have requested would therefore be in excess of the 18 hours specified by the Home Office as the time period for which a police force should allocate to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, the current regulatory limit which has been set by the Secretary of State for public authorities, which includes the police service, is £450 for the marginal costs which are the costs of finding, sorting, editing or redacting information and disbursements (printing, photocopying etc). The Association of Chief Police Officers have agreed a national standard of an hourly rate of £25 is to be charged for the time taken. In essence therefore, the costs equate to 18 hours work per request. It will be apparent therefore that within the time frame of 18 hours it will not be possible to extract the information to answer any of your questions.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under s12(1) as the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the "appropriate level" as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Leicestershire Police wish to apologise that this response is over the time specified under the legislation and trust this has not caused you too much inconvenience.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to the Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely

Linda Dempsey

Linda Dempsey
Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police