

Date: 25th September 2020

Our Reference: FOIA-2020-102

RE: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or 'FoIA 2000') request dated **01/09/2020** in which you requested:

"I understand that last year, under the direction of the College of Policing, police forces were required to collect data, over a 24-hour period, on the demands made upon police services by people who were mentally ill. Would it be possible to see the data from this study and/or any analysis and conclusions that were drawn about the data and the study?"

Decision

When a request for information is made under FoIA 2000, a public authority has a general duty under section 1(1) of the Act to inform an applicant whether the requested information is held. There is then a general obligation to communicate that information to the applicant. If a public authority decides that the information should not be disclosed because an exemption applies, it must, under section 17(1) cite the appropriate section or exemption of the Act and provide an explanation for relying upon it.

After conducting careful searches for any information relevant to your request, under section 1(1), I can confirm that **there is some information held**.

1. Would it be possible to see the data from this study and/or any analysis and conclusions that were drawn about the data and the study?

I can confirm data from this study **is held**. However, the analysis and conclusions are **not held**, as they are yet to be produced.

However, we have refused your request under section 12(1) FoIA – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

Section 12 states:

- (1) **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.

The appropriate limit is defined under **Regulation 3(3)** of The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 ('2004 Regulations'), as being £450. All public authorities should calculate the time spent on the permitted activities, outlined below, at the flat rate of £25 per person, per hour. Therefore, a time limit of **18 hours** is imposed, with £450 set as the appropriate limit.

Regulation 4(3) of the 2004 Regulations, state that a public authority can only take into account the costs it reasonably expects to incur in carrying out the following permitted activities in complying with the request:

- (a) determining whether it holds the information,
- (b) locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,
- (c) retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and
- (d) extracting the information from a document containing it.

In these circumstances, we have estimated that extracting the data from the document it is contained in would exceed 18 hours. There is an extremely large volume of data which must be extracted from its current document in order to present it in an acceptable format for disclosure, the time estimate for completing this is well over 18 hours. As a result, we are able to refuse your request under section 12(1) FoIA.

However, our current intention is to publish the analysis and conclusions of the data by the **end of October 2020**. The analysis and conclusions will take significantly less time to formulate than extracting the data from the study.

As the College does not currently hold the analysis and conclusions, I cannot ask you to refine your request to ask for only those two pieces of information, however, we are happy to send you the analysis and conclusions when they are published next month.

I originally sent you a confirmation email explaining that I would process your two requests under the same reference number for ease. However, as section 12(1) FoIA has been applied to this part of your request, in the spirit of transparency, I have separated your requests to ensure that both parts of your requests are not refused, and you can be provided with information held under FOIA-2020-113.

Your rights are provided at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Kaufman | Legal Researcher
Information Management and Legal Team
College of Policing

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Your right of review

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have a right to request an internal review if you are dissatisfied with our handling of your request. Review requests should be made in writing (by email or post) within **40 working days** from the date of our original response. We will aim to respond to your review request within **20 working days**.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

If, after lodging a review request you are still dissatisfied, you may raise the matter with the ICO. For further information you can visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>. Alternatively, you can contact them by phone or write to them at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113