



Information Rights
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15th May 2020

Our Ref: FOI2020/02336

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2020/02336

I write in connection with your request for information received on 20th April. I note you seek access to the following information:

How many crimes were recorded by your force during the period 23rd March 2020 until 20th April 2020, where the victim's occupation was given as Nurse, Doctor, Paramedic, Police officer, Prison officer or just recorded as NHS

Please provide the total number of crimes recorded and the nature of the crime eg theft assault etc etc

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.

Response – Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police and their Performance Team within the Force please see our response on the document attached and marked as **Annex A – FOI2020 02336**.

Any further information held by Bedfordshire Police is exempt under the following exemptions: -

Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings conducted by Public Authorities **Section 40(2) – Personal Information**

Section 30 Investigations - The Section 30 exemption is a class based qualified exemption. This means that the legislators when writing the legislation considered that the release of such information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 would cause harm to the public authority or individual concerned. There is therefore no requirement to carry out a HARM Test in respect of such information. However, there is a requirement to carry out a Public Interest Test in order to establish whether the public interest in maintaining the exemption may be outweighed by a wider public benefit in disclosure.

Section 40 Personal Information - The Section 40 exemption is a class based absolute exemption. This means that the legislators have identified that there would be harm in disclosure and there is no need to evidence this or carry out a public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Whilst providing information would reassure the public, including information as to how public funds are spent, confirming details of any investigation would compromise that investigative process.

Anything which would jeopardise future court proceedings would not be disclosed prior by Bedfordshire Police, as to do so would undermine police investigations and hinder the prevention and detection of crime. It would not therefore be in the public interest to reveal that such investigations are being undertaken.

S30 - Factors favouring confirming that information is held:

Providing information relevant to this request would lead to a better-informed public, improving their knowledge and understanding of how the Police service respond and deal with such types of investigation. Public confidence would be maintained and the public may be encouraged to assist more readily with such investigations.

S30 - Factors against confirming or denying that information is held:

Any information generated by an investigation, particularly in some circumstances needs to be treated with sensitivity. In some cases, providing information which could disclose facts which would prejudice the evidence gathering within an investigation. In addition, the police service would not disclose information which could identify investigative activity, and subsequently undermine those processes. To do so would hinder the prevention or detection of crime.

Balance Test

The strongest reason favouring disclosure is the public interest in disclosing information that would provide the public awareness of action taken by Bedfordshire Police, which would increase transparency and accountability.

The strongest reason favouring non-disclosure is the significance and sensitivity of the requested information as it relates to ongoing investigations and may identify victims of crime, which may interfere with the course of justice and any subsequent court procedure and potential links to other investigations and the wider law enforcement.

On weighing up the competing interests, the public interest favours non-disclosure of the requested information. This decision is based on the understanding that the public interest is not what interests the public but what is considered to be an appropriate disclosure in the circumstances.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Information Rights

Bedfordshire Police 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 Bedfordshire Police 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.