

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO 2015-030

Your request has now been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) and we provide our response below.

You asked:

Please will you provide the following information broken down yearly for 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 (January – October).

The number of recorded complaints received by the office of the Dorset PCC from offenders complaining they haven't been given the choice or are denied the opportunity of taking a Driver Awareness Course outside of Dorset.

The number of these complaints passed to Dorset Police for their attention.

Upon receipt of your request we have reviewed our records and can advise the following:

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Dorset do not hold the information relevant to your request in a centrally searchable format, and a large amount of the detail you require is held in individual records. As a result we estimate that the manual searches to extract the requested information would exceed our cost limit, which is detailed below.

S12 Fees Limit

Section 17 (5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the OPCC, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you with a notice which states that fact.

Under Section 12 (1) of the Act, the OPCC is not obliged to comply with a request for information, where it is estimated that the cost of complying with that request would exceed the 'appropriate costs limit'. The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004 currently sets this limit at £450. These estimated costs are calculated at a rate of £25 per person per hour and amount to 18 hours work.

As we indicate above, our estimate is that the work required would significantly exceed this "appropriate costs limit". This should therefore be considered as a Refusal Notice for this request.

Refinement of your request

In accordance with our obligation to assist requestors under Section 16 of the Act, the OPCC are happy to discuss ways in which you might be able to refine your request for relevant information, to make it retrievable within the costs limit. However, due to the specific nature of the information you require, and the manner in which it is recorded, we are unable to suggest a refinement in this case.

It may be that Dorset Police can assist with this information and I understand that you have already been in contact with them with a similar request.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your request, or this response notice, please feel free to contact us on the details below:

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset
Force Headquarters
Winfrith
Dorchester
DT2 8DZ

Tel: 01305 229084
Email pcc@dorset.pnn.police.uk

Alternatively, you can contact the Dorset Police Freedom of Information Department as below:

The Freedom of Information Office
Professional Standards Department
Dorset Police Headquarters
Winfrith
Dorchester
DT2 8DZ

Tel. 01305 223402 or 01305 223590
Email foi@dorset.pnn.police.uk