

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 021655
Date 10 February 2016

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers with Criminal Convictions

Request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the following information about the number of hackney carriage and private hire drivers with criminal convictions who have been granted licences by the council over the last five years.

Specifically I would like the following:

1. A breakdown of the information year by year
2. A breakdown of their offences eg. murder, rape, theft, sexual assault on a minor etc
3. A breakdown of the figures according to hackney carriages and private hire vehicles
4. The identities of the cab drivers and full details of their offence(s)

Following careful consideration, the Council regrets to inform you that it has decided not to disclose this information.

Information you have requested has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to provide the information you have requested it would take us in excess of six weeks to compile as this information is not held centrally and therefore we would have to carry out a manual trawl of 1,300 records to retrieve this information.

In estimating the cost of complying with a request for information, an authority can only take into account any reasonable costs incurred in:

“(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”.