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02/02/2022

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 47/2022

Thank you for your request for information regarding fixed penalty notices, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

I noticed online you have published some statistics on Covid - and I am after the number of fines handed out since the start of the fines being handed out (since 27th March 2020) And also the total that amounts in pounds that this has equated to please?

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does hold information captured by your request. The information has been withheld under Section 21 Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Mean and Section 22 Information Intended for Future Publication.

For full details in regards to the legislation and the potential risk of harm, please see Annex A below.

The latest NPCC data pack provides this information from 27/03/2020, up to and including 19/12/2021 and can be found [here](#). This provides a total of all FPNs issued by UK police forces and a detailed breakdown. As this information is available to you, S21 is engaged for information up to 20/12/2021. S22 is engaged for information from 21/12/2021 to the 26/01/2022 as a further update on FPNs is planned for release.

Information in relation to FPN payments has been withheld under Section 22, as per the holding statement on the NPCC [website](#).

The NPCC has a legal obligation to try and advise and assist you further with your request. In wishing to help you, the data pack confirms that as at the 19/12/21, 118,963 fixed penalty notices have been issued for breaches under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations 2020 and subsequent amendments.

Additionally, ACRO have provided a generic list of the potential fines for each legislation breach. However, please note that this amount may vary depending on whether the subject of the notice pays within the grace period or whether they had previous offences. I have attached the list to this response.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Greenlees

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 20 working days of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with NPCC, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

The legislation: Section 21 Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means

Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

Information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

Information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

S21 is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test.

The legislation: Section 22 Information intended for future publication-

Information is exempt information if-

The information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),

The information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and

It is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the data referred to in paragraph (a)

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and as such is subject to a public interest test. This means that I have identified the exemption, considered whether the public interest in not disclosing the information outweighs the public interest test in disclosing the information.

There is a general public interest in disclosure and openness to increase public trust in, and engagement with, the police service and government.

In determining the public interest, I have evaluated the impact of releasing the information against the need for public bodies to exercise their functions. In this case, I have concluded that to release the statistics prior to them being published by the Home Office would be irresponsible on the NPCC's part.

Legislation: Section 16

It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.