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08/06/2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 162/2023

Thank you for your request for information regarding the data.police website, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

We are planning in use some of the information related to crime and do some work with it, but some question has come to the board, and we cannot find answer on the website, so thank you very much in advance for your time and your answer.

1. As per data downloads you are using LSOA from 2011, is there plan to move on to updated 2021 LSOA in the next future?
2. Also, we are processing the data from your side, so we need to do some work on it, I have read some of the API calls but cannot find any call so we can download the data for certain dates we are working in national scales so we will need all dataset in monthly bases, so would be great if programmatically we can query this data monthly.

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does hold some information captured by your request that answers your request.

In relation to question 1 of your request, my colleagues confirmed that they are currently in the process of updating the data to LSOA 2021. This is an ongoing process.

Unfortunately question 2 of your request is not valid under the Freedom of Information Legislation. A public authority is entitled to treat a request as invalid where specific recorded information is not specified. Section 8(1) of the Act sets out the requirements of a valid request for information and says that a request must, amongst things, 'describe the information'.

The Freedom of Information Act affords anyone in the world the right to request information by a Public Authority. It does not cover thoughts and/or opinion, unless recorded and the Public Authority is under no obligation to create information to answer a request or to answer general questions. The legislation places two key obligations on an authority that is covered by the Act when they are considering a request for information.

These obligations are set out in Section 1(1) and stipulate that when that authority receives a valid request (which is defined elsewhere in the Act) that authority must confirm what information is or is not held (S1(1)(a)) and, if that information is held, it must be provided to the applicant unless it is

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considered to be exempt information (S1(1)(b)). It is therefore reasonable to assert that if we are unable to meet this obligation under S1(1) of the Act we are unable to confirm or deny what information is held by the NPCC.

The NPCC has a legal obligation to try and advise and assist you further with your request; for more information on the legislation please see Annex A.

Outside of Freedom of Information Act and a gesture of goodwill, my colleagues provided the following information in relation to your second question:

'All forces' data can be downloaded from data.police.uk, specifically for designated date ranges. The website provides zip files for each force, organized on a monthly basis. At this time, there are no plans to make any changes to this functionality'.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Greenlees

NPCC Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

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

Legislation – Section 16

- (1) 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.