

S.40(2)

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
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Dear All,

Please see below advice in relation to the following:

Log Number:1355/22

Case worker: S.40(2)

Logged with:National

Sent from: S.40(2)

Applicants Request

1. How many sex offenders did your force have registered living in the force area in each of the past three financial years? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

2. Of those sex offenders who were required to notify the police force of all foreign travel and their return to the UK, how many did inform your force of all foreign travel and their return to the UK and how many also failed to do so, in each of the past three financial years? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

3. How many sex offenders has your force recorded as having failed to return to the UK in each of the past three financial years? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

4. How many sex offenders have notified the force when they were living in a household with a child under the age of 18 and how many failed to do so, in each of the past three financial years? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

5. How many sex offenders have made a notification to your force that they have changed their identity through name change in each of the past three financial years and how many did the force discover retrospectively had changed their identity through name change without first informing the force in each of the past three financial years? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

6. How many offences have been committed by sex offenders within your police force area of failure to comply with the notification requirement in each of the past three financial years? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

7. How many registered sex offenders failed to make annual contact with police stations within your police force area in each of the past three financial years (please provide the number of sex offenders failing to make annual contact and the number of failures for each financial year)? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

8. How long does it take for a registered sex offender to be classed as "missing" from your police force area? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

9. How many registered sex offenders went missing from your police force area in each of the past three financial years? Please break down these data by policing district if you are able to. If not, please provide force-wide data.

10. Please provide these data in an .xlsx/.xls/.csv file format so I am capable to re-use them as per Section 11 of Fol.

CRU Advice

As always, the first consideration is whether or not complying with ALL parts of the request can be achieved within relevant Cost parameters, otherwise s12 is appropriate.

Where Cost is not an issue the following is relevant, and subject to local assessment that disclosure does not risk identifying individuals primarily (s40). Equally, for any information already public domain from a reputable source, [such as these MAPPA statistics](#) at force level, then s21 can apply.

Q1 – Forces have released force wide RSO data previously, and we see no harm in doing so for this request. The applicant would like the data broken down by district, and the decision to do this will be entirely down to the geographical breakdown within each force. But generally speaking, the 'line in the sand' for when disclosure of this type of information is likely to be harmful is when it relates to an area which has a population size of 10,000 or below. **As such, should your force be considering disclosure per district then please contact the CRU for further consideration.**

Q2 – Of the numbers captured at Q1, the applicant seeks to know how many notified the force of their intent to travel, and how many failed to do so. We see no harm in providing total figures per year if able to do so.

Q3 and Q9 – These two questions seek to know how many RSOs have effectively absconded, either by not returning to the UK having travelled abroad, or simply gone missing. This type of information has been disclosed previously, and we tend to suggest that a caveat is included to the effect of:

'In relation to the number of registered sexual offenders whose whereabouts are unknown, (XXX insert force name), has as of the date of your request (xxx insert number, even if 0) RSOs currently recorded as wanted because their whereabouts are unknown. This total is only valid for the date in question because the information is dynamic and will change as arrests are made or new cases come to light through proactive intelligence led policing or routine visits to registered offenders'.

Q4 – RSOs are required to notify the police when they are living in a household with a child under the age of 18. This request centres on the number of RSO who have failed to notify. If able to do so, we see no immediate harm in complying with the request.

Q5 - Sex offenders have a duty under the law to notify the police when they change their name as part of their notification requirements. However, whether or not forces will hold data to the effect that they discovered the name change retrospectively, I cannot say. This may have s12 Cost considerations if not easily retrievable. But at face value we don't see any immediate harm in complying with this request.

Q6 and Q7 – This pertains to total numbers of RSOs who have committed an offence as a result of failing to notify, or failed to maintain contact the police on an annual basis . If held we see no immediate harm with providing total figures.

Q8 – We are not sure that forces will hold information that specifically answers the question, as each case will likely depend on the circumstances and restrictions placed on the RSO and what the police determine as a result.

Q10 is not a request for information.

The above is a handrail only. But please let us know if further assistance is required.

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)

National Police Chiefs' Council

S.31(1)

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