

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Sent: 14 July 2021 13:09
Subject: Log No. 969/21 CRU Circulation (14/07/2021) - S.40(2) -
UK Missing Persons' Unit - Result Advice

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Dear All,

Please see below advice relating to the following:

Log Number: 969/21

Case worker: S.40(2)

Logged with: National

Sent from: S.40(2)

Applicant's Request:

As per the categories of data collected and published by the UK Missing Persons Unit and as per the template spreadsheet attached to this request titled "Missing people FOI template",

Q1: Can I ask your force for the numbers of missing individuals over the past 5 financial years from 2017 to date, broken down into (a) adult/child and also broken down by (b) gender, (c) financial year, (d) ethnicity, (e) whether that individual was the subject of a missing person report published externally by the force eg press release/social media/shared with Missing People charity/not published, (f) the missing individuals' risk level, vulnerability (eg CSE/mental health), (g) the duration those individuals were missing, (h) the nature of harm they suffered while missing, (j) the numbers of fatal outcomes, (k) who found them, (l) the reason those individuals were missing.

Please note this request is not exempt under Section 22 of FoI: future publication because this combination of data is not published in the way I have asked.

Q2: Please also include the Command & Control system used by the force eg STORM, ControlWorks and please state the Missing Person system used by the force eg NICHE, COMPACT. Please provide these data in an .xlsx/.xls/.csv file format so I am capable to re-use them as per Section 11 of FoI.

Q3: Can your force also please share with me a copy of its policy on when to publish and not to publish missing persons reports eg press release/social media/sharing an appeal with the Missing People charity?

CRU Advice:

The below advice is subject to individual force analysis that ALL of the information can be retrieved within the cost threshold. If cost is relevant to your force, when issuing your s12 refusal notice we suggest you invite the applicant to refine their request, if feasible to do so.

If cost isn't a factor for any information which has been formally placed into the public domain via a reputable link, s21 Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means can be cited and the applicant directed to the relevant link(s).

Question 1:

We can see no harm in disclosing the force level total number of missing individuals over the last four complete financial years. In relation to the current financial year to the date the request was submitted, our records show this to be 17th June 2021, practitioners will need to carry out a thorough local assessment to ensure disclosure would not identify an individual (s40(2) Personal Information) or compromise the effective delivery of operational law enforcement (s31(1)(a)(b)).

Question 1(a) to (l):

The applicant is requesting a substantial breakdown of information, some would have been compiled purely for the purposes of a criminal investigation (s30(1)(a)), if the individual is still missing those investigations will still be ongoing.

Practitioners will need to carry out a thorough local assessment, in consultation with your in-force SIO to ensure disclosure would not identify an individual (s40(2)); compromise an ongoing investigation (s30(1)(a)); OR undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement (s31(1)(a)(b)). As you are no doubt aware s30 and s31 are mutually exclusive and cannot be cited for the same piece of information. Therefore, when issuing your refusal please ensure you articulate to the applicant which exemption is relevant to which piece of information.

Consideration should also be given to s38(1) Health and Safety in relation to the individual who has subsequently been located, as well as any family and friends of individuals who are still missing.

If any information captured by this request relates to an exempt body, e.g. is missing individuals are thought to be linked to modern day slavery or exploitation, please come back to us as we will need to consult with relevant stakeholders.

Question 2:

The applicant is requesting the name of the generic command and control system used by your force. This information is published on the Bluelight Procurement Database, [here](#). Therefore s21 can be cited and the applicant directed to the source. If the information isn't published, we can see no harm in disclosure.

Question 3:

The applicant is requesting any local force policies, therefore s21 will be relevant, an example can be found [here](#).

Regards

S.40(2)

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

National Police Chiefs' Council

S.31(1)

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NB: **S.40(2)**

<http://www.npcc.police.uk/NationalPolicing/NationalPoliceFreedomofInformationandDataProtectio.aspx>