



Response Date:28/05/2024

2024/487 - Armed police unit response times by area

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- 1 (a) For 12 months to the end of April 2024, please outline your force's average response time for a firearms unit / armed response unit, where an emergency call demands an armed police response.**
- Please break this data / timings down by each post code area your force serves, eg. SW1, L27, EH11 ...
(b) Additionally, please provide this information for 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. To obtain the information in the format you have requested would involve manual examination of two systems for 428 records. The cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (FOI) Fees and Appropriate Limit regulations 2004.

Therefore, in accordance with the FOI Act 2000 the information you have requested is exempt under Section 12 (1), and this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (5) of the legislation.

Although excess cost removed the forces obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

(c) What are your force's target times for armed police responses to these post code locations?

There are no specific target times directed at armed response officers only.

- 2 (a) In the year to April 2024, how many incidents required an armed police response from your force?**
(b) Additionally, please provide this information for 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23

By virtue of section 21 (1) information accessible to the applicant by other means, I can confirm that the information is already in the public domain and can be accessed at the following website:

[Police use of firearms statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-use-of-firearms-statistics)

The information is published by financial year, ending in March. However, current published data only covers the period up to the end of March 2023, not 2024. This will be published in due course and therefore exempt under;

Section 22(1)(a) – Information Intended for Future Publication

Under section 22 of the Act, we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already scheduled to be released into the public domain. This information is published annually in July. I consider that the financial and administrative cost of attempting to collate data separately at this stage, to be contrary to the public interest. I have accordingly refused your request.

Therefore, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under section 17 (1) of the legislation.

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 24/05/2024