



Response Date:02/09/2024

2024/754 - Compensation for unlawful forced entry

In response to your recent request for information excess cost is relevant to part which removes 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.

Our information is set up and searchable for our policing purposes. We have provided data held by our Legal department. Local Policing Services (LPS) do hold additional information, however to identify if the entry was lawful or not would require a manual search of all forced entries. 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.

1. Please tell me for the financial years a) 2021/22, b) 2022/23, and c) 2023/24 on how many occasions your police force has made compensation or ex gratia payments to individuals whose properties have been damaged during a forced entry that was unlawful (either because the wrong address was raided or because a warrant had not been secured).

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
2	0	2

2. For a) 2021/22, b) 2022/23, and c) 2023/24 please tell me the total amount of compensation and ex gratia payments paid out to individuals following an unlawful forced entry. Please break down for each year the amount corresponding to compensation payments and the amount attributable to legal costs.

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
£2265.00 – damages No costs	£0.00	£1566.00 – damages No costs

3. Please state the FIVE biggest amounts settled over this three-year period, stating how much corresponded to legal costs and how much corresponded to compensation in each case and the financial year in which it was settled. In addition, please give a brief summary of the circumstances that led to the compensation payment in each of the three cases without revealing personal details, e.g., "officers broke down the door at number 25a when the warrant was for 25b".

NOTE: In all cases, I am referring to the year in which the claim was settled, not the year the incident happened or the year the claim was lodged.

2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Largest amount of compensation - £1850.00 (a) damage caused to gate by officers trying to locate individual who had no connection to the property - ex gratia payment (b) damage caused to garage roof by officers trying to locate individual who had no connection to the property - unlawful	-	Largest amount of compensation - £816.00 (a) Officers caused damage when forced entry was made to wrong flat - unlawful (b) Officers caused damage to property trying to locate individual. NWP had earlier been informed that the individual did not reside at the property - unlawful

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 21/08/2024