

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 815

Question:

I would like to make a data request under the Freedom of Information Act.

(1) The number of attempts to access any websites categorised as pornographic content (as categorised by any IT security tools) from computers and other devices connected to your internet network, in each of the last three years broken down by year, broken down by successful and unsuccessful attempts to visit those websites.

If you do not categorise such sites, please consider (2) in place of (1). If you do categorise such sites, please disregard (2).

(2) The number of attempts to access the below URLs from computers and other devices connected to your internet network: pornhub.com, xhamster.com, redtube.com, eporner.com, porn.com, chaturbate.com and youporn.com, in each of the last three years, broken down by successful and unsuccessful attempts to visit those websites.

Answer:

Your request has been considered and I regret to advise you that your request is refused because we estimate that the cost of retrieving the requested information would exceed the cost limits under the Act which is currently set at £450 or 18 staff hours work. This letter represents a Refusal Notice under the Act.

This is because the information requested is not centrally recorded.

As a matter of routine, all access to porn sites are blocked, so no member of the OPCC could have accessed one of these sites.

To establish if any staff have attempted to access these sites would require an engineer to conduct an investigation, as there exists the possibility that the attempted access could be the result of malware embedded in a legitimate site which then maliciously seeks to redirect the browser automatically to a porn site address. We could only determine if the blocked attempt was deliberate, on the part of the user, or inadvertent, due to malware, by carrying out extensive investigation. Internet access records are retained for 18 months only, based on that period it has been estimated this would take in excess of 120 working hours to complete, therefore the cost of compliance is exceeded.

You may wish to consider refining your request to a more manageable level however with the limited information that we have, I am unable to advise of how you would do this in order to satisfy the purpose of your request.