

Request Details – FOI5401

This is a notice of request for information Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would be grateful if you would treat this correspondence as a formal request for disclosure of the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("Fol").

PLEASE NOTE:

For the purposes of this request, all references to "loan sharks" relate to those in contravention of laws dealt with by the National Illegal Money Lending Project. By "West Midlands", I mean the metropolitan borough – i.e. Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Solihull, Coventry, and Birmingham.

Description of information sought:

- In the West Midlands, how many reports of "loan sharks" were received by the department between January 1st 2010 and December 31st 2010?
- In total, how much money did these "loan sharks" receive from people? Was/has any of it been reclaimed?
- In the West Midlands, how many reports of "loan sharks" were received by the department between January 1st 2009 and December 31st 2009?
- In total, how much money did they receive from people? Was any of it reclaimed?
- In the West Midlands, how many reports of "loan sharks" were received by the department between January 1st 2008 and December 31st 2008?
- In total, how much money did they receive from people in this manner? Was any of it reclaimed?
- Within each of the above time periods specified, how many arrests of "loan sharks" were made, and how many convictions?
- Which of the main West Midlands areas – ie Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Coventry and Solihull – had the most reports of loan shark activity between January 1st 2010 and December 31st 2010?

Please send me the information by email. Please provide me with a summary of the information I have requested.

I look forward to hearing from you promptly, and at any rate, within the statutory time limit of 20 working days from your receipt of this letter.

Whilst writing, I take this opportunity to remind you of the Information Commissioner's public statements, in which he has stated that there is a "presumption of disclosure" under Fol.

Please note that if this request for Fol disclosure is refused, I reserve the right to take up the matter with the Information Commissioner and/or to pursue all legal avenues of appeal. I trust this will not be necessary.

Response Details – FOI5401

I am writing in respect of your recent enquiry (detailed below) for information held by the Authority under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please find below the response to your enquiry:

This is a notice of request for information Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you would treat this correspondence as a formal request for disclosure of the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“Fol”).

PLEASE NOTE:

For the purposes of this request, all references to “loan sharks” relate to those in contravention of laws dealt with by the National Illegal Money Lending Project. By “West Midlands”, I mean the metropolitan borough — i.e. Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Solihull, Coventry, and Birmingham.

Description of information sought:

- In the West Midlands, how many reports of “loan sharks” were received by the department between January 1st 2010 and December 31st 2010? **16.**
- In total, how much money did these “loan sharks” receive from people? Was/has any of it been reclaimed? **Unless records are kept by criminals we have no idea of how much money they take, we do not have this information. However £163,000 was reclaimed.**
- In the West Midlands, how many reports of “loan sharks” were received by the department between January 1st 2009 and December 31st 2009? **13**
- In total, how much money did they receive from people? Was any of it reclaimed? **Unless records are kept by criminals we have no idea of how much money they take, we do not have this information. No Monies were reclaimed.**
- In the West Midlands, how many reports of “loan sharks” were received by the department between January 1st 2008 and December 31st 2008? **17**
- In total, how much money did they receive from people in this manner? Was any of it reclaimed? **Unless records are kept by criminals we have no idea of how much money they take, we do not have this information. No monies were reclaimed.**
- Within each of the above time periods specified, how many arrests of “loan sharks” were made, and how many convictions? **Across the Midlands 15 arrested, six cases brought to court + two pending.**
- Which of the main West Midlands areas – ie Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Coventry and Solihull – had the most reports of loan shark activity between January 1st 2010 and December 31st 2010? **Birmingham.**