



Freedom of Information, Information Compliance Unit, Kent Police Headquarters, Sutton Road,
Maidstone, Kent ME15 9BZ Phone: 01622 654413
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Mr. Paul Styles
Request-13302-e4190356@whatdotheyknow.com

Date: 5th November 2009

Tel No.: (DDI) 01622 654413

FOI Ref.: 4560/2009

Dear Mr. Styles,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 4560/2009

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12th June 2009, and your more recent communication in which you asked for a review into the handling of your request.

In the earlier part of this year this unit was experiencing staffing difficulties and this, coupled with a substantial increase in the workload associated with requests, resulted in a number of requests being processed some time after the statutory time limit permitted to a public authority to respond to such requests had passed. We have recently been in communication with the Information Commissioner's Office to discuss these issues, and have increased our staff within the unit. The new team are working hard to reduce the process backlog.

This has been the case with your own request as the section of the team dealing with the backlog are currently working on requests received during the month of June.

On behalf of Kent Police I apologise for the lateness of this response and assure you that steps have now been taken to address these matters and provide the service that we both would prefer.

In your request you asked for the following information:

I am seeking a copy of certain information held within the on line Police Pension Administrators Forum. The Forum is hosted by the Home Office and is open to selected employees of police forces who work within the area of human resources/personnel. I know that Kent; Police have access to the Forum and thus will be able to obtain the information I am requesting.

From a list of topics discussed on the Forum that I have to hand, I note the following: Review of Injury Awards on reaching state pension age Review of IODs. I would like a copy of all information contained within these topics. I would also like an up-to-date list of the topics within the Forum, together with the number of replies and views. This would be most easily accomplished by providing a copy of the page/s from the Forum that contains the information.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides the general right of access to recorded information that is held by public authorities. Although, as you rightly say, Kent Police have access to this forum, we are not required to obtain information in response to a request if we do not already hold the information for our own purposes. Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Kent Police and we can confirm that no information relevant to your request is held by Kent Police.

In accordance with our duty to assist under section 16 of the Act, we have confirmed that the Home Office, as the administrators of the forum, hold the information pertinent to your request and we have therefore transferred your request and details to the forum moderator, Mr Ian Moir, on your behalf.

Mr Moir can be contacted via the Home Office switchboard on 0207 0354848.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police. If you have any further queries concerning your request, or the application of the Freedom of Information Act in general, please contact this office quoting the reference number shown above.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Birchley
Freedom of Information Administrator

Your right to complain

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will conduct an internal review to investigate the matter and endeavor to reply within 20 working days. If your appeal concerns the decision to apply an exemption, it would assist the review if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

You may lodge your complaint by writing to:

Supt. Paul Gladstone
Head of the Information Compliance Unit
Professional Standards Department
Kent Police Headquarters
Sutton Road,
Maidstone Kent
ME15 9BZ

Or by e-mailing
freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by Kent Police.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF