

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

13 January 2010

Your Ref:

Our Ref: 0876/2009

Mr Calum Fuller

Email : Request-22598-7de160fd@whatdotheyknow.com

Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters
173 Pitt Street
GLASGOW
G2 4JS

Tel: 0141 435 1217

Fax: 0141 435 1218

Dear Mr Fuller

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER 0876/2009

I refer to your request for information dated 4 November 2009, which was received by Strathclyde Police on that date. I apologise for the delay in providing a response to your request.

I would like to know how many people have had to find alternative housing or accommodation for their own safety in the Strathclyde area. Where possible, I would like a breakdown of how many are temporary or permanent, and the reasons for their relocation.

CLARIFICATION : 2008 Calendar Year

In terms of Section 18 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act) Strathclyde Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information requested by you. However, if the information was held by the Force, it would be considered exempt in terms of one or more of the exemptions detailed in Section 18 of the Act, which are listed below:

- Section 34 – Investigations by a Scottish Public Authority
- Section 35 – Law Enforcement
- Section 39(1) – Health Safety and the Environment

Section 18 of the Act also provides that there is no requirement on a public authority, when issuing a Refusal Notice in terms of Section 18, to state why the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs that in disclosure of the information; nor is there any requirement to state why the exemption applies in so far as that statement would disclose information which would itself be exempt information. This should not, however, be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.

Witness protection and the methods used to provide such a service are very sensitive areas of policing which require complete confidentiality in order to protect anyone directly involved,

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the wider public and serve the interests of justice. As such, it is not in the public interest to confirm whether specific measures of witness protection have been utilised within a particular time frame. **Again, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you have requested exists or does not exist.**

I hope this information is helpful, however, if you are not satisfied with the way that your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance to request a review of the decision made by the force. Should you wish to request such a review, please write to the Disclosure Manager within 40 working days of receiving this letter.

If, after having been informed of the Review Panel's decision, you are still not satisfied then you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. The Commissioner can be contacted the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS, Telephone: 01334 464610.

Should you require any further assistance concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me directly on 0141 435 1217, quoting the reference number given.

Yours sincerely

Christine Boyd
Sergeant

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