

Ms Liz Robillard

Via e-mail to :- Request-25463-40643149@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: 47014

17th February 2010

Dear Ms Robillard,

I am writing with reference to your request for information regarding Police time in form filling, dated 1st January 2010, made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked for the following questions:-

Is software being used to cut to the cost of police time in form-filling? I am hoping to help present to you an idea for a fairly simple software that simply states the type of crime and gives options, culminating in a printable crime report with room for any additional comments prior to the officers' signature. This is roughly estimated to cut police form-filling time by approximately 70% speaking generally, if such software can be developed by the Polices' own IT teams, all the better, do let me know if I can assist, meantime, is there any restriction on software for the police? I noted that local social work departments use the very best voice to text 'DRAGON- naturally speaking' which speeds up reports considerably also- do the police who have to write reports have access to this software also please?

You can find some details of the role the NPIA take in Police Procurement on our website (see link below). Generally speaking the NPIA develop national frameworks for the UK Police forces to utilise. The UK Police Forces remain, however, totally autonomous and any decision to procure items, such as the technologies you describe, are made by the forces themselves. Any national procurement exercise is based on requirements received from the Police Forces and other public authorities.

<http://www.npia.police.uk/en/7067.htm>

<http://www.npia.police.uk/en/12730.htm>

However, if you have any ideas or software you think maybe useful to the police and/or criminal justices system, then please send further details to the NPIA Innovation Unit (see link below).

<http://www.npia.police.uk/en/14785.htm>

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 investigate the matter and endeavour to reply within 3 – 6 weeks. You should write to:

David Horne
Director of Resources
National Policing Improvement Agency
10-18 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0NN

E-mail: david.horne@npia.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 the NPIA. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

National Policing Improvement Agency

Further information about the NPIA is routinely published on our website at www.npia.police.uk or through our publication scheme. If you require any further assistance in connection with this request please contact us at our address above.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Woodgate

IKS Advisor

National Policing Improvement Agency