



Hampshire Constabulary Chief Constable Alex Marshall

Mr Steve Bird
request-4514-
0c656e80@whatdotheyknow.com

Police Headquarters
West Hill
Romsey Road
Winchester
Hampshire
SO22 5DB

Our ref: HC/04121/08

Your ref:

Telephone: 0845 045 45 45

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December 05, 2008

Dear Mr Bird

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: HC/04121/08

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act was received by the Information Compliance Unit at Hampshire Constabulary on 4th December 2008. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please supply the following information under Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- For each of the last three financial years (05/06) and (06/07) and (07/08) please state if any drugs seized by your force have then been either lost or stolen from you or otherwise unaccounted for?
- If so please give a date for each incident along with the type of drug, the quantity and a brief account of how it was lost/stolen/unaccounted for.

RESULT OF SEARCHES

Hampshire Constabulary does not hold this information in a retrievable format. The cost of confirming whether the information is held (ie. if it has been recorded), retrieving and extracting the information is likely to exceed the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

The information to which you refer is not held in a format that enables the Constabulary to carry out searches to retrieve it according to your specification. Seized drugs are stored within the property offices at each individual police station throughout the force. The only way of establishing if any items of property have been lost or stolen, would be to contact each and every one of the property offices within the force. As there are over 60 police stations within Hampshire & the Isle of Wight, this process in itself would be extremely time-consuming. On contacting each office, a register of property would have to be manually viewed to establish how many entries of seized drugs had been recorded. Of those entries, a further check would need to be conducted to establish if those drugs had been recorded as lost, stolen or unaccounted for. This whole process would be extremely time-consuming,



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clearly exceeding the cost limit in this case. There would also be no guarantee that even if the enquiries were made, and the information could be retrieved, that it would be accurate.

The cost of confirming if the information is held, locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. It is estimated that it would cost more than £450 to comply with your request.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice in respect of this part of your request.

You may wish to refine your request by narrowing down the search parameters – for example, refining your request to two police stations for a refined date period such as one month, thereby significantly reducing the number of records that would need to be manually searched to retrieve the information you are seeking.

However, in order to assist you, drug seizure figures are published within the force profile on the Hampshire Constabulary website at the following link:

<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/Internet/rightinfo/foi/informationclasses/performancefigures.htm>

The information can be located in the year end 2008 report on page 63

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet detailing your rights.

Thank you for your interest in Hampshire Constabulary.

Should you have any further inquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact Becky Hill on telephone number 01962 814757 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Becky Hill
Freedom of Information Decision Maker



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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to require Hampshire Constabulary to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint, you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer who dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again –

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of Hampshire Constabulary made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding access to information, you can lodge a complaint with Hampshire Constabulary to have the decision reviewed. Hampshire Constabulary must be notified of your intention to complain within 2 months of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Complaints should be made in writing and addressed to:

Freedom of Information
Information Compliance Unit
Police Headquarters
West Hill, Romsey Road
Winchester
Hants SO22 5DB

In all possible circumstances, Hampshire Constabulary will aim to respond to your complaint within 3 months.

The Information Commissioner

If, after lodging a complaint with Hampshire Constabulary, you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (2000).

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner, please visit their website at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk. Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 700