

Our Ref: 165-08-275

Your Ref:



**SURREY
POLICE**

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**Information Access Team
Surrey Police H.Q
01483 630007**

Mr Jason Dowle

By e mail

request-582-9ecc469c@whatdo they know.com

18th June 2008

Dear Mr Dowle

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 165-08-275

I write in connection with your request for information received on 23rd May 2008. I have repeated your questions below for ease of reference.

Q. Last night My colleague and I were refused entry into a night club on Camberley High Street. He was asked to produce identity to prove he was over the age of 18. In order to do this he used a MOD Form 90. This is a clear case of discrimination based on employment. I was directed to a police officer who stated the vast proportion of drink related crime is committed by Service Personnel in Camberley. Could you therefore please provide me with a break down of the number of Service Personnel who have been detained, cautioned or had criminal prosecutions made against them in comparison to the civilian population, specifically as a result of drink related crime.

A. We are unable to provide you with statistical information in relation to the comparisons between the numbers of Service personnel and the civilian population who have been detained, cautioned or have criminal prosecutions made against them as we do not hold this information on a list or database. In addition, there are a number of other ways in which the "offending" soldiers may have been dealt with, and that could be -

- Removed from the town centre by the RMP.
- Returned to barracks by police for the RSM to deal with.
- Removed from the town centre by their own regiment's commanding officer. Surrey Police have undertaken joint patrols with various regiments who supply their own transport to remove their soldiers if they become a problem.

In the early part of 2007 there was an increase in incidents of disorder, fighting and other public order offences involving military personnel in Camberley town. The most serious incident was deemed a "Significant Incident" for Surrey Police due to the resources it took to deal with the disorder. This incident involved one particular regiment.

Following this incident the DPS (Designated Premises Supervisor) took the decision to ban all military personnel from the establishment until a resolution was sought, knowing that the police would apply for a review of their licence and/or closure of the venue if they did not take immediate action.

It appeared that a large number of those involved in offences were on training courses from local military establishments and therefore not concerned about getting into trouble in Camberley, knowing that if they were ejected or banned from the local nightclub they would not be returning.

The military ban was a success for the venue and had a dramatic effect on the number of incidents there, reducing them to virtually nil.

The local licensing officer worked in partnership with the local military establishments to address the issues (Keogh Barracks, Minley Barracks, Deepcut and Sandhurst). As a result, the RSM's (Regimental Sergeant Majors) at all four camps, in consultation with the DPS, started the "permanent staff" pass scheme.

The passes are only issued to those who live/work in the area permanently, and therefore are less likely to cause trouble and get banned from their local town. It also gives the RSM the opportunity to monitor those not supposed to be coming into the towns.

This scheme has maintained the extremely low number of incidents at the venue involving military personnel and has therefore been shown to be proportionate and justified.

In summary, the venue has to take all action possible to ensure the safety of the persons using it, and under the Licensing Act 2003, every DPS has to take every possible step to prevent crime and disorder. By banning all military personnel, they were taking an appropriate step to ensure there was not a re-occurrence of the incident above and also to keep their business open.

It was because the individuals concerned were not in possession of one of these passes that they were refused entry.

Surrey Police provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. How to do this is set out in the attached Appeals Notice. Having followed the full procedure, if you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give your case consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Surrey Police. Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact us on 01483 - 630007 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

D. I. Tony Smith
Information Access Manager.