



Miss G Stewart
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PERFORMANCE BUSINESS SUPPORT
Community Services Directorate

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17/03/2009:

When calling or telephoning please ask for: Mrs Lesley Mainwaring

My Ref: 736369

Your Ref:

Dear Miss Stewart

The application that was received by the council on 10 February 2009 has now been considered and this letter is a full response to your request about crime rates or statistics for the area around the existing site at Chelson Meadow, both before and after the site was built.

I apologise that there has been a delay in sending out our response.

I have now had time to fully consider your application and liaise with relevant officers within the council and colleagues in the police force.

The council does not hold the information that you have requested in that the council does not hold any recorded information about anti-social behaviour or crime statistics for The Ride or surrounding area.

The council does not provide information that is accessible by other means, which is Section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act.

General Information about crime statistics is available on the Devon and Cornwall Constabularies website www.devon-cornwall.police.uk. I am reliably informed that these are not likely to be broken down in a way that will answer your enquiry. This is for several reasons, namely:-

- The geographical area is very small
- Data protection rules would preclude disclosure of any information that could identify individuals
- The area around the Ride is a public right of way and crime data can not be attributed to the Gypsy and Traveller residents just because they live there
- Figures relating to incidents before the Ride was built and until now, would not be comparable like for like for a range of reasons (e.g. re-categorisation of crime types) and so would at best be highly misleading and at worst open to misinterpretation.

You can of course contact the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary should you require confirmation of the above. For a formal answer please contact

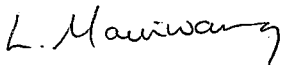
Freedom of Information Unit
Information Management Department
Devon and Cornwall Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Middlemoor
Exeter
Devon EX2 7HQ
Email: FOI@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk
Form from: <http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/v3/publrep/foia/FOIRequest.cfm>

I can assure you that our work on Gypsy and Traveller Sites provision in our city, including that in relation to the potential area in the Coypool vicinity will take the views of residents into account. We will ensure that concerns about crime rates are carefully considered in our planning. Well managed and designed sites elsewhere in the country have not resulted in an increase of anti-social or criminal behaviour either within the provision or nearby. We will ensure that we use the best practice in relation to those sites to ensure the same is the case in any Plymouth sites that may be built.

If you are not satisfied with the way your request has been handled you may ask for an internal review to take place.

If you wish to discuss this letter or the information that is supplied then please contact me through the details above, but please leave a contact telephone number if I am unavailable.

Yours sincerely



Lesley Mainwaring
Performance and Business Support Assistant