



Our Ref: FOI-2011-00389 / SH
Your Ref:

Freedom of Information
Information Compliance Office (FIB)
Rugby Police Station
Newbold Road
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 2DH

Email:
Freedom.information@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk

Tel: 01788 853864

September 28, 2011

Mr. Richard Martin
Richard Martin [request-84786-ef26a427@whatdotheyknow.com]

Dear Mr. Martin

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI-2011-00389

I write in connection with your request for information dated August 30, 2011 which was received by Warwickshire Police on August 30, 2011, in which you seek access to the following information:

How many requests for information have been received from RSPCA in last 5 years?

I am very concerned about the extent to which private information and data held by the police is being provided to private organizations, such as the RSPCA.

The RSPCA is a private organization. Its employees are ordinary members of the public. Yet, I believe that there are constabularies which have private arrangements with the RSPCA for the provision of information to that organisation of private and sensitive information about individuals, which information might be of use to the RSPCA and its ruling Councillors in their political and other objectives.

As you may know, the RSPCA is run by a ruling Council of 26 persons. At least 18 of these people are either members of, or actively support, an extreme animal rights organisation called Animal Aid. I am concerned that data concerning individuals who do not support the extreme animal rights agenda of the RSPCA and Animal Aid may be falling into the hands of those organisations, and their "partners".

I understand that the RSPCA are able to use the police radio network, called Airwave, but that requests for such things as PNC checks are sometimes handled directly by the RSPCA's Political Headquarters in Horsham. As you may be aware, the RSPCA has a close relationship with many journalists - I am concerned that any channel for information to be obtained unlawfully from the police and/or provided by the police in an unregulated manner should be closed off.

Would you therefore please provide me with data, detailing how many requests for information from the police have been received by the Constabulary from the RSPCA annually during the last five years broken down annually?

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Warwickshire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

The information requested is not recorded separately for statistical purposes and is therefore not readily identifiable. To provide an answer to your request would entail manual searches of all animal related incidents reported over the last five years. Each one would need to be further examined to extract where information has been shared. This would involve a disproportionate amount of effort, which would exceed the fees limit (£450) as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004. An estimate of the total cost cannot be given as a search under 'animal' related incidents for the year 2010 exceeded 700 entries. An estimate of the cost of searching those 700 incidents only is approximately £2916. This has been calculated as follows: **700 records @ approximately 10 minutes per record = 116 hours @ £25 per hours = £2916.**

In accordance with Section 12 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please treat this letter as a refusal notice that I am required to provide you with in respect to your request.

In accordance with Section with section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I have a duty to provide advice and assistance in relation to your request, however due to the volume of records that need to be reviewed I have been unable to identify any information that could be supplied with the fees limit.

It may interest you to know that The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) is recognised as a Non-Police Prosecuting Agency (NPPA) and takes private prosecutions as a Specialist and Private reporting Agency. The RSPCA Act 1932 sets out the objectives of the RSPCA.

Currently and historically the Police in England and Wales and the RSPCA have mounted joint operations where the responsibility or ownership for the reporting of a case by either the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) or by the RSPCA is decided in advance.

Appeal Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of appeal.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SHarris'.

Sabina Harris
Information Compliance Officer

WARWICKSHIRE POLICE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEALS PROCEDURE

This appeals procedure is issued in accordance with paragraph 36 of the Lord Chancellor's Freedom of Information Access Code of Practice.

Appeal Notification

When a Freedom of Information (FOI) applicant, who has made a request for information, is dissatisfied with the response received from Warwickshire Police, the FOI applicant should inform Warwickshire Police in writing (this may be by email) of the reasons why the response is deemed unsatisfactory.

Should a person who feels that Warwickshire Police is not complying with its Publication Scheme, the person should inform Warwickshire Police in writing (this may be by email) of the reasons for their dissatisfaction.

Action by Warwickshire Police

When a dissatisfaction report is received, the circumstances of the dispute will be reviewed initially by the Decision Makers in the Freedom of Information Office.

If the Decision Makers are unable to resolve the dispute with the FOI applicant, the dispute will be referred to a Board comprising a Head of Department and a Chief Officer. The Board will not have been involved in the original decision making process to compile the response.

The Board will consider the dispute and will advise the FOI applicant of their decision as soon as practicable, but within 20 working days.

Further Action by FOI Applicant

If the FOI applicant remains dissatisfied with the Warwickshire Police response, they then have the option to refer the case to the Information Commissioner.