

Our Ref: 1109.08

Your Ref:

Date: 07 May 2008

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



North
Yorkshire
Police

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER 1109.08

I write in connection with your request for information dated 9 April 2008 which was received by North Yorkshire Police on 9 April 2008. I note you seek access to the following information:

North Yorkshire Police donations/funding to Common Purpose between 2006 – date and for what purpose.

Can you please supply supporting paperwork relating to any funding or donations. NYP spend (leadership training) with a charity called Common Purpose 2006/7 and 2007/8

Copy of emails etc., between Mr Porter and Common Purpose, August 2007 to April 2008.

Decision

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) I have decided to refuse your request as it has been deemed a 'Vexatious Request'.

Reasons For Decision

Section 14(1) of the Act provides:

Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.

The Information Commissioner has stated that a vexatious request is, or causes, excessive burden, has no serious purpose, causes disruption and annoyance or leads to harassment of an authority. In this case we are aware that many requests have been made to various public authorities concerning Common Purpose. In our opinion this latest request has been made as part of a campaign which has the effect of placing excessive burden on the public authorities concerned.

I have found that your request is vexatious as it causes disruption and harassment to Common Purpose in dealing with public authorities and consequently to the public authority itself.

Complaint Rights

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



Yours sincerely,

Mrs Christina Scaife
Disclosure Law Manager
Information Law Unit

Our Ref: 4455/FOI/1467.08

Your Ref:

Date: 01 December 2008

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



**North
Yorkshire
Police**

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO. 1467.08

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19 November 2008. I note you seek access to the following information:

- *I want to know how much the two raids cost and how much was spent on the police investigating the cases and the court case where [REDACTED] was acquitted.*

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) I have decided to refuse your request for information in this case as it has been deemed a 'Vexation Request'.

Section 14(1) of the Act provides that:

Section 19(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.

You were informed in our letter dated 31 May 2007 that any future requests around the subject area of your previous request 737.07, may be considered vexatious under Section 14 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Under this section of the Act, an authority is not obliged to deal with requests that are manifestly unreasonable or obsessive. The Information Commissioner has stated that a vexatious request is, or causes, excessive burden, has no serious purpose, causes disruption and annoyance and leads to harassment of the public authority.

Whilst the Freedom of Information Act is generally applicant blind, public authorities may take into account the identity and motive(s) of the applicant when considering s14. As such, in these cases, there is no requirement for a public authority to adhere to the 'applicant blind' principle.

The Information Commissioner has also stated that using Freedom of Information to reopen long running disputes is clearly inappropriate and the examination of the previous history of the applicant and their requests to public authorities is also very relevant to making an individual vexatious.



It is therefore the North Yorkshire Police position that no Further Freedom of Information requests on the subject of the 2 raids you refer to in your correspondence and the court case a [REDACTED] was acquitted.

Complaint Rights

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

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Terry
Legal Officer (Disclosure) Information Law Unit
Legal & Compliance Services Directorate