



**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Ms Emma Smith

Telephone: 101  
Direct Line: 0300 122 8752  
Ask For: Freedom of Information  
Our Ref: 002734/14  
Your Ref: Knives Seized  
Date: 11 November 2014

Dear Ms Smith

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - REFERENCE NO: 002734/14**

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by Derbyshire Constabulary on 03/11/2014. I note you seek access to the following information:

*Could you tell me the number of knives Derbyshire Constabulary have seized from members of the public in the calendar years of 2011, 2012, 2013 and to-date in 2014; The number of knives members of the public handed in the force during the same period*

I am aware that a Ms Emma Smith made a previous request to the Constabulary on 11 April 2014 via the 'WhatDoTheyKnow' website. Having reviewed the site, and in particular the name, I am happy that an individual using the same name, albeit not necessarily the same individual, has made both requests.

The relevance of establishing the above lies in the fact that in relation to the initial request I had good cause to believe that the name used wasn't the real name of the applicant as required under Section 8(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As stated at the time Section 8(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 indicates that the real name of the applicant should be used when requesting information and not any other name, for example a pseudonym. This approach is supported by The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance which makes it clear that it was the intention of the legislation that an applicant should provide their real name so that the request can be processed in accordance with the requirements of the FOIA. Further the definition of 'applicant' in Section 84 of the FOIA adds weight to this and suggests that the use of a false or fictitious name is not acceptable. Therefore, where a public authority receives a request from a person using an obvious pseudonym, there is no obligation to comply with the request.

As a consequence I am not at this time prepared to accept your application as valid pending proof of identification. I also need to add that as the request is not valid rights under the Act, such as the right to an internal review, do not apply.

Your request has been placed on hold where it will remain for the next 20 working days pending proof of identification. If no evidence is received within that time I will assume the information is no longer required and close the request as 'withdrawn'.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Constabulary Headquarters Butterley Hall Ripley Derbyshire DE5 3RS  
Incoming telephone calls and data communications may be monitored and recorded



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Given that 'What Do They Know' is a public website I understand any reluctance you may have to disclose such details via it. On that basis, and in an attempt to assist, disclosure can be made via the below link.

[foi@derbyshire.police.pnn.co.uk](mailto:foi@derbyshire.police.pnn.co.uk)

Yours sincerely

Kevin Lea  
Freedom of Information Officer

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