



PORT OF DOVER POLICE

"Keeping our Customers Safe"

Our Ref NDC/CAH/FOI
Your Ref request-201938-8f2279a4@whatdotheyknow.com

14th March 2014

Mr Patrick Palmer

Dear Mr Palmer

Freedom of Information Act Request

I refer to your Freedom of Information Act (FOI) request dated the 13th March 2014 in respect of Community Messaging Service.

You ask:

"Many public sector organisations use a 'community messaging' or 'neighbourhood alert' system whereby members of the public and other local community groups can sign up or subscribe to receive alerts from your organisation via email, automated voice call or SMS text message. It's a system your force would typically use to send messages about incidents, missing persons or other urgent issues.

- 1. Does your organisation currently use such a system?*
- 2. If so, which one? (e.g. Ringmaster, Neighbourhood Alert, Owl, bespoke/developed in-house etc.)*
- 3. If it was developed in-house, how long ago and at what cost?*
- 4. Which message sending methods does it support from the following: email, SMS, voice call, Twitter, Facebook?*
- 5. Approximately how many active users/subscribers does it have across each message sending method?*
- 6. Can you please provide a copy of the contract with your supplier? (if applicable)*
- 7. Can you please specify the contract end date? (if applicable)*



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

8. Does your organisation use the Government's G-cloud/CloudStore platform to purchase IT and software? If not, when do you plan to do so?"

The Port of Dover Police is a non-Home Office Police Force that is funded entirely by the Port Authority, The Dover Harbour Board, to provide a policing service at the Port of Dover. In response to your FOI request I would draw your attention to:-

Schedule 1, Part V, Section 64 of the Act which applies to –

Any person who –

- (a) By virtue of any enactment has the function of nominating individuals who may be appointed as special constables by justices of the peace, and,
- (b) is not a public authority by virtue of any other provision of the Act, in respect of information relating to the exercise by any person appointed on his nomination of the functions of a special constable.

This section has the effect of applying the responsibility under the FOI Act to the Dover Harbour Board (The Port Authority who nominate and subsequently fund the Port of Dover Police), but the said responsibility is only to disclose information, if available, that relates to the functions of a constable, the obligation is no wider than that. In addition the Dover Harbour Board is not a public authority for the purposes of the FOI Act and as such is not bound by the general requirements of the Act.

The Dover Harbour Board, who receive no public funding whatsoever, are responsible for providing all assets for the Port of Dover Police, including email and telecommunication facilities, and the operation of any social media interaction. Your specific request for information does not relate to the functions of a constable and therefore falls outside the parameters of Schedule 1, Part V, Section 64 of the Act, above.

However, and in the spirit of the FOI Act, I can advise you that the Port of Dover Police does provide a bespoke community messaging service to the resident Port Community and key Stakeholders (Question 1). This system was developed in-house (Question 2) and is supported by email (Question 4).

Questions 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 do not relate to the functions of a constable and for that reason no further information will be provided.

I respectfully ask that you acknowledge receipt of my reply and confirm that your FOI request has been complied with in order that I might close my file.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your FOI request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original request.

If your complaint refers to a decision to apply an exemption it would assist the review if you would outline the reasons why you feel the exemption does not apply.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Walter Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N.D. Care', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

N.D. Care
Inspector