



Home Office

Performance and Risk 020 7035 4848
Directorate (switchboard)
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF www.gov.uk

Mr Christopher Stacey
Via email to: request-423289-7e20f013@whatdotheyknow.com

27 October 2017

Dear Mr Stacey

Freedom of Information request (our ref: 44921): internal review

Thank you for your email of 8 September 2017 in which you asked for an internal review of our response to your Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Your request of 4 August 2017 asked for information regarding the number of nominal records held on the Police National Computer. Your request can be viewed in full at **Annex A**.

I have now completed the review and have assessed the substance of the response provided to you. I can confirm that I was not involved in the initial handling of your request.

The FOI response explained that the information you had requested was not held. You were advised that Police National Computer (PNC) is the responsibility of the police, and were advised to contact the police directly. You were provided with a link to the Metropolitan Police Stats and Data website. A full copy of the response can be found in **Annex B**.

The review is based on the points you have raised in your internal review request which can be found in full at **Annex C**.

The crux of your argument is that the response is at odds to another similar FOI request, in which information was released in full by the Home Office. The internal review also requested an explanation as to why the initial response did not appear on the WhatDoTheyKnow.com (WDTK) website on 15 August 2017, and only appeared after being re-sent on 8 September 2017.

Following further consideration of this request, I can confirm that the information you requested in your original response is held by the Home Office. The Home Office was therefore incorrect to state in the FOI response that the information was not held.

I am able to confirm that as of the 18th September 2017, the number of nominal records on PNC was 12,263,877 of which the number of records containing a criminal record element was 11,166,266. Other records relate to persons either wanted or missing; and/or with disqualifications and/ or who are Firearm Certificate holders.

You also queried in your internal review how the initial FOI response was sent. Although the FOI response was issued on 15 August 2017, it did not appear on the website until 8 September 2017, when you requested an update on your FOI response.

I have consulted with the FOI case owner and unfortunately, the original email of 15 August cannot be found within our systems. Regrettably, it appears that an administrative error occurred when the response was sent to the WDTK website. It is possible that an incorrect WDTK address was used, but we have not been able to ascertain what happened with any certainty. I would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience caused in the delay in issuing the original FOI response.

In conclusion, I am satisfied that the original response incorrectly advised that the information was not held.

This now completes the internal review.

Yours sincerely

S Mason

Information Rights Team

Switchboard 020 7035 4848

Email FOIRequests@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A – full text of request

Dear Home Office,

I would like to obtain up to date figures on the number of nominal records held on the Police National Computer.

In your response, I would be grateful if you could provide the total figure, as well as the number of nominal records that contained a criminal record element. For those that did not contain a criminal record, please provide a description or summary of what these records relate to.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Stacey

Co-director, Unlock - for people with convictions

Annex B – full text of the response letter

Christopher Stacey
[request-423289-
7e20f013@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:7e20f013@whatdotheyknow.com)

15 August 2017

Dear Mr Stacey,

Freedom of Information request (our reference: 44921)

Thank you for your e-mail of 4 August 2017, in which you ask for up to date figures on the number of nominal records held on the Police National Computer (PNC). Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and can be viewed in full in the accompanying **Annex A**.

The Home Office does not hold the information which you have requested. The PNC is the responsibility of the police and you are advised to contact them directly using the details provided in **Annex B** of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied with this response you may request an independent internal review of our handling of your request by submitting a complaint within two months to the address below, quoting reference **44921**. If you ask for an internal review, it would be helpful if you could say why you are dissatisfied with the response.

Information Rights Team
Home Office LG161, Lower Ground Floor, Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
e-mail: info.access@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

As part of any internal review the Department's handling of your information request will be reassessed by staff who were not involved in providing you with this response. If you remain dissatisfied after this internal review, you would have a right of complaint to the Information Commissioner as established by section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Yours sincerely,



P. Zebedee
Information Rights Team

Annex A

FoI Request – Christopher Stacey – 04 August 2017

Dear Home Office,

I would like to obtain up to date figures on the number of nominal records held on the Police National Computer.

In your response, I would be grateful if you could provide the total figure, as well as the number of nominal records that contained a criminal record element. For those that did not contain a criminal record, please provide a description or summary of what these records relate to.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Stacey
Co-director, Unlock - for people with convictions

Annex B

Online Contact Point: <https://www.met.police.uk/stats-and-data/>

Annex C – full text of the internal review request

Dear Home Office,

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of Home Office's handling of my FOI request 'Number of nominal records on the Police National Computer'.

Firstly, it was stated that the original reply was sent in August. I did not receive this. Please explain how this initial reply was sent.

Secondly, and more importantly, the reply I recently received stated that you do not hold this information, and I was directed to the Metropolitan Police. This is somewhat at odds to a reply you provided in June 2017 to a similar request where you replied with figures based on April 2017. The details of that reply are available online at <https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/4...>, however in there you say: thank you for your email of 11th May 2017, in which you ask for information regarding up to date figures on how many Nominal (Criminal) Records are currently on the PNC. A full copy of your request can be found in Annex A. Your request has been handled as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Home Office holds the information which you have requested. The latest available figure (April 2017) is 11,166,296 records.

As a result, I believe it is a mistake to say that you do not hold the information I have requested, as I am simply requesting for updated figures to the ones you had for April 2017.

To reiterate my request:

"I would like to obtain up to date figures on the number of nominal records held on the Police National Computer.

In your response, I would be grateful if you could provide the total figure, as well as the number of nominal records that contained a criminal record element. For those that did not contain a criminal record, please provide a description or summary of what these records relate to."

A full history of my FOI request and all correspondence is available on the Internet at this address: <https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/n...>

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Stacey, Co-director, Unlock - for people with convictions

Annex D – complaints procedure

This completes the internal review process by the Home Office. If you remain dissatisfied with the response to your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF