

Mr. Roberts?

15 January 2018
Our ref: IR224573

Dear Mr. Roberts?

Thank you for your request for information received on 2 January 2018.

This request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your request

I would be grateful if you would provide me with a full list of fixed CCTV camera locations in the London Borough of Lambeth. I am referring to cameras in public places that Lambeth Council operate, or have access to.

Our Response

I can confirm that we have reviewed your request but consider that disclosure of the locations of Council-run CCTV may be prejudicial to the Council's responsibility to ensure the prevention or detection of crime and also carry out its other responsibilities.

We therefore engage Section 31: Law Enforcement to this request.

Section 31: Law Enforcement

31.—(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice –

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,*
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders,*
- (c) the administration of justice,*
- (d) the assessment or collection of any tax or duty or any imposition of a similar nature,*
- (e) the operation of immigration controls,*
- (f) the maintenance of security and good order in prisons or in other institutions where persons are lawfully detained,*
- (g) the exercise by any public authority of its functions for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2),*

(h) any civil proceedings which are brought by or on behalf of a public authority and arise out of an investigation conducted, for any purposes specified in subsection (2), by or on behalf of the authority by virtue of Her Majesty's prerogative or by virtue of powers conferred by or under an enactment, or (i) any inquiry held under the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiries (Scotland) Act 1976 to the extent that the inquiry arises out of an investigation conducted, for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2), by or on behalf of the authority by virtue of Her Majesty's prerogative or by virtue of powers conferred by or under an enactment.

(2) The purposes referred to in subsection (1)(g) to (i) are –

(a) the purpose of ascertaining whether any person has failed to comply with the law,

(b) the purpose of ascertaining whether any person is responsible for any conduct which is improper,

(c) the purpose of ascertaining whether circumstances which would justify regulatory action in pursuance of any enactment exist or may arise,

(d) the purpose of ascertaining a person's fitness or competence in relation to the management of bodies corporate or in relation to any profession or other activity which he is, or seeks to become, authorised to carry on,

(e) the purpose of ascertaining the cause of an accident,

(f) the purpose of protecting charities against misconduct or mismanagement (whether by trustees or other persons) in their administration,

(g) the purpose of protecting the property of charities from loss or misapplication, (h) the purpose of recovering the property of charities,

(i) the purpose of securing the health, safety and welfare of persons at work, and

(j) the purpose of protecting persons other than persons at work against risk to health or safety arising out of or in connection with actions of persons at work.

(3) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would, or would be likely to, prejudice any of the matters mentioned in subsection (1).

As this exemption is qualified and prejudice-based, we are obliged to outline the harm in disclosure and explain why we consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Harm in Disclosure

Disclosure of the locations of Council-run CCTV would prevent the Council from enforcing laws for example speed limits.

The disclosure of this information would also undermine the Council's ability to carry out necessary investigation.

There is a significant risk that releasing this information would prejudice anti-crime work leading to an increase of crime.

The prejudice to anti-crime work will hinder the Council from ensuring the safety of the general public.

Public Interest in Disclosure

We appreciate the benefits in transparency and that disclosure would improve public knowledge & debate on this issue.

Public Interest in maintaining the exemption

It is not in the public interest to provide information if to do so means that there will be significant likelihood of increase in crime because of the released information.

It is not in the public interest to increase the risks of crime.

It is not in the public interest to provide information if to do so means that the Council cannot effectively investigate an issue or it would be detrimental to the general public.

In accordance with Section 17 FOIA this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this request.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your Freedom of Information request has been dealt with you can request an internal review. Tell us why you are unhappy with our response within 40 working days, and it will be looked at afresh. We will aim to provide you with our review response within 20 working days.

By email: xxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx (Please quote the reference number above) or by writing to:

Freedom of Information
Olive Morris House
18 Brixton Hill
London
SW2 1RD

If you remain dissatisfied with the outcome of the review you have a further right to appeal to the Information Commissioner, who regulates the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act. The Commissioner can be contacted at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Enquiry line: 0303 123 1113

Thank you for your interest in Lambeth Council.

Yours sincerely

Merrily Rodriguez
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