

Dear B Dean,

REQUEST 12390

Please confirm that you have all the SIA Officers badge numbers that are being employed by the Cheshire Hounds Hunt since the 2019/20 hunt season began in November 2019.

REQUEST 12391

1. Please confirm yes or no whether there have been any communications either/and or of written, electronic or meetings between the Constabulary and the Cheshire Hounds Hunt between 1 November 2019 and 19 January 2020.

2. If the answer is yes to 1. above please provide:

- a. copies of written correspondence,
- b. copies of all electronic communications, c. minutes of all meetings, d. notes of any telephone conversations.

REQUEST 12412

Please confirm that Sergeant Rob Simpson is not related to John George Mcdakin Simpson, Director of The Cheshire Hunt Limited.

If Sergeant Simpson is related please confirm that this is noted as a declared interest when Sergeant Simpsons duties involve policing the Cheshire Hounds Hunt.

REQUEST 12457

Please confirm whether you issued S.35 (Anti social Actt) or S.60 Notices before the eight arrests of the anti Hunt supporters on 4/1/20.

RESPONSE

In accordance with section 1(1) (b) of the Act, our response to your request is as follows:

Please be aware that Section 12, allows a public authority Public to aggregate two or more separate requests from one person or different persons who appear to be acting together when they relate "to any extent" to the same or similar information. As such the above reference numbers have been aggregated.

From our preliminary assessment we are unable to provide this as it would exceed the appropriate costs limit under section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. This is currently £450. The basis for this calculation is the cost of retrieving the data to answer your questions.

Please be aware that The Act does not cover information that is in someone's head. A public authority is only required to provide information they already have in recorded form. There is no requirement to create new information or find the answer to a question from staff who may happen to know it.

To obtain the relevant information relating to 12391 we would need to complete a manual trawl of all force emails containing the relevant keywords (e.g hunt, hunting, Cheshire Hounds Hunt) to establish

if they were correspondence that falls within the remit of your request. An initial search on the 3 keywords above has generated over 4,500 emails each would need to be reviewed to establish if it was relevant. It would take one member of staff approximately 5 minutes per record equating to in excess of 375 hours of work to obtain this information for request 12391. Your entire request is therefore refused.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Cheshire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you with a notice which a) states that fact, b) specifies the exemption in question and c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The appropriate limit is defined in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, which is covered by statutory Instrument Number 3244 of 2004. Furthermore, Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 allows a public authority to refuse to respond to a request for information where the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit as defined by the above mentioned regulations.

To assist I can advise, if you were to resubmit a new request consisting of 12457 and 12412 we may be able to provide a response within the cost limits of the Act.

If you are not satisfied with the decision applied in this case I enclose for your attention a copy of the Constabulary's appeal procedures.

Regards,

Requests

Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service Joint Corporate Services

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