

Our Ref: OPCC FOI 1291

28 January 2020

Dear Mr Buxton

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 1291**

**REQUEST**

Regarding the following document: <https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/app/uploads/2018/10/Policing-Sheffield-Trees-Protests.pdf> 'Policing Sheffield's Trees Protests Report' produced by: Advisory Panel on Policing Protests, 12 June 2018.

*This document was subsequently amended on 18th October 2018 due to containing serious errors of fact which were brought to light by vigilant citizens of Sheffield.*

*I would like to know if any individual involved in producing the report specified above, had sight of, or reviewed any of the 43 documents released by Sheffield City Council in 2019 which are contained in the following link [https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/dates\\_notes\\_and\\_shared\\_media\\_sta#comment-90492](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/dates_notes_and_shared_media_sta#comment-90492), prior to release of the report?*

*If the contributors did not have sight of and review these documents which contain information pertinent to the report please specify why this would be the case, as I fear that the report may not have been sufficiently rigorous and salient information may have been omitted.*

**RESPONSE**

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides two distinct but related rights of access to information, which impose corresponding duties on public authorities. These are:

- Section 1(1)(a) the duty to inform the applicant whether or not information is held by the authority, and, if so,
- Section 1(1)(b) the duty to communicate that information to the applicant.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the OPCC, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you, the applicant, 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).

**Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire**  
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[www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk)

The Freedom of Information Act covers recorded information that is held by a public authority. Your requests are opinion based questions and are not valid under s8 (1) (c).

S8 (1) states - In this Act any reference to a 'request for information' is a reference to such a request which:

- (a) is in writing
- (b) states the name of the applicant and an address for correspondence, and
- (c) describes the information requested.

However, to assist you with your enquiry, you may find the following link of interest  
<https://southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/app/uploads/2019/02/FOI-1245-Tree-Protest-Report-Documentation.pdf>

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request an internal review by emailing this office.

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

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

Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 545745

Website: [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

Sally Parkin

Governance and Compliance Manager  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner