



Our Ref: 0104.2020-21  
Date: 4 June 2020

Civil Disclosure  
Joint Corporate Legal Services

Dear Applicant,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 0104.2020-21**

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by North Yorkshire Police on 16 May 2020. Please accept our apologies for the delay in providing you with a response. I note you seek access to the following information:

*Please can you provide the last 10 years of expenditure, by year, on forensic science services broken down between in-house and contracted out. Also can you give the split of contracted out expenditure that relates to digital forensics.*

**Extent of Searches to Locate Information**

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within North Yorkshire Police to locate relevant information.

**Decision**

I am not obliged to provide you with a response to your request pursuant to Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). Please note that when one part of your request falls under Section 12, we are not obliged to review the rest of the questions and the whole request is therefore exempt.

Section 12(1) applies to your request as the cost of complying with your request is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of identifying and retrieving any relevant information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

Due to the nature of our recording systems the information requested, if held, is not in an easily retrievable format.

Since 2009/10 North Yorkshire Police have had several changing structures for the provisions of forensic services for the force resulting in different recording methods for costs. To provide information in relation to expenditure broken down between in-house and contracted out forensic

Jane Wintermeyer BSc (Hons) Force Solicitor & Head of Legal Services  
Police Headquarters | Alverton Court | Crosby Road | Northallerton | North Yorkshire | DL6 1BF  
DX No 68810 NORTHALLERTON 2 | Telephone 01609 643542 | Fax 01609 789987

Non-emergency  
Number



services as well as split of contracted out digital forensic expenditure would exceed the time/cost limit under the Act. As such providing this information is exempt.

Pursuant to Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

Pursuant to Section 16 of the Act I am required to offer you advice and assistance with regarding to refining your request to within the 'appropriate limit' (time/cost limit). We may be able to provide you with information on the total spend on forensics without the broken down and contracted out elements. Please let me know if this information would be helpful to you.

Please note that systems used for recording information are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted therefore that this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other responses you may receive.

### **Complaint Rights**

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet which details your right of complaint.

If you have any queries concerning this request, please contact me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

Sam Allon  
Legal Officer (Civil Disclosure)  
Joint Corporate Legal Services

## **COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to request that North Yorkshire Police review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again –

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

### **Complaint**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision North Yorkshire Police made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can lodge a complaint with North Yorkshire Police to have the decision reviewed. North Yorkshire Police must be notified of your intention to complain within 2 months of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Complaints should be made in writing and addressed to:

Force Solicitor and Head of Legal Services  
North Yorkshire Police  
Alverton Court  
Crosby Road  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL6 1BF

In all possible circumstances North Yorkshire Police will aim to respond to your complaint as soon as practicable but within 20 working days.

### **The Information Commissioner**

After lodging a complaint with North Yorkshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk> Alternatively, phone: 0303 123 1113 or write to:

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