



**Kent
Police**



Mr. P. Swift
request-525321-
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Direct Line: 01622 654429/654413/652304
E-mail: freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk

Date: 8 November 2018
FOI Ref: 18/10/1357

Dear Mr. Swift,

Freedom of Information Request 18/10/1357

I write in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on 10 October 2018.

For the past 3 calendar years and for this one to date i.e. from 01/01/2015, please advise: whether Kent Police have a fraud unit and if so:

the number of officers & staff employed by the department(s) where they are located contact details for same, to include email address the criteria for the reports they receive and investigate the number of allegations received since 01/01/2015 the number of allegations investigated since 01/01/2015 the number of allegations which resulted in a suspect being charged, cautioned or dealt with some other way by the justice system the percentage 'solved'

the number ongoing

The number of officers and staff working within fraud related roles for individual forces can be found within annual Home Office returns, at the following links:

31 March 2015 (under Fraud)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444537/police-workforce-supptabs-mar15.ods

31 March 2016 (under Economic Crime)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/544954/police-workforce-tabs-jul16.ods

31 March 2017 (under Economic Crime)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/629865/police-workforce-tabs-jul17.ods

31 March 2018 (under Economic Crime)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728153/police-workforce-tabs-jul18.ods

Kent Police employees are based at Police Headquarters. The email addresses of these individual teams are considered exempt from release by virtue of the exemption at Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law enforcement.

The email addresses requested are not public facing and are used for operational policing, meaning they are not intended for public use. Public release would result in additional email traffic

to these addresses which would create distraction from police work and frustrate resources, thereby impacting on Kent Police's ability in the prevention and detection of crime, and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

Whilst disclosure of this information into the public domain would contribute to openness and transparency, it would make possible the inappropriate use of these email addresses, intentional or otherwise, leading to the distraction of employees engaged in operational policing.

There are systems already in place for general and directed enquiries to Kent Police via the 101 non-emergency number, or at enquiries@kent.pnn.police.uk, and victims of crime will receive contact details unique to their investigation. With this in mind and having considered the arguments above, I find in this case the public interest lies in non-disclosure.

Since 2013, incidents and crimes relating to fraud will be reported to Action Fraud, the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime. The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau has responsibility for the assessment and decision to allocate any reports to the relevant forces. Further details are available from the following links:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/what-is-action-fraud>

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/what-is-national-fraud-intelligence-bureau>

The first table on the attached appendix provides reported outcomes based on figures from the National Fraud Reporting Centre (Action Fraud); please note the numbers refer to the number of individual victims of crime rather than the number of individual crimes. The figures include combined outcomes for reports disseminated to Kent Police from NFIB as well as for 'calls for service' (those created by Kent Police).

The second table on the attached appendix provides the number of reports received each year by Kent Police, disseminated from NFIB. Please note it is not possible to identify automatically the number of calls for service during this time without an extensive manual review of all crime reports created by Kent Police; this is estimated to exceed 18 hours' work and engage the cost exemption at Section 12 of the FOIA.

Please note the two tables are based on separate sets of data, this means that the data used for the outcome figures is not the same data used for the dissemination figures. It is not possible to report automatically on the same set of data.

I apologise that this reaches you outside of the twenty working day limit, but thank you for your interest in Kent Police. If you have any queries about your request or the application of the Freedom of Information Act generally, please contact this office quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Muggridge

Public Disclosure Officer

Your right to appeal

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have 40 working days from the date the response is issued to request that Kent Police carry out an internal review.

If your request for a review concerns the decision to apply an exemption, it would assist if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

Kent Police will acknowledge receipt of any request for a review and aim to respond as soon as practicable, in most cases within 20 working days of receipt. If the review will not be completed in this timescale, you will be informed.

You may lodge your request for a review in writing:

Our email address is: freedomofinformation@kent.pnn.police.uk

Our postal address is:

Freedom of Information Team
Kent Police Headquarters
Sutton Road,
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 9BZ

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner who would normally expect you to have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by Kent Police.

For information on how to appeal to the Information Commissioner please visit the website at www.ico.org.uk. Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
0303 123 1113