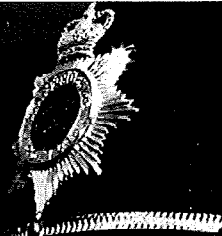




Keeping our communities safe and reassured



FOI ref no: 7677

10 January 2017



Dear 

Freedom of Information request: reference 7677, first notified to us by email on 3 January 2017

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The force's response to your enquiry is as follows:

- 1. I would like an electronic copy of the database that Staffordshire Police uses to record use of force - such as taser, baton, open hand techniques, dogs, guns etc. I would like it in Excel spreadsheet format if possible. I would like the data for 2015 and 2016.*
- 2. I would also like data for all other years that the Met has recorded use of force information. If it is not possible to send all of the the data due to time constraints I would appreciate it if the data sent to me goes back as far as possible.*

Caveats:

I would like to have copy of the full database if possible, but I understand that it may be problematic to release some information due to confidentiality issues.

If it is not possible to release all of the information would it be possible to send me the spreadsheets with the problematic columns/cells deleted?

I would be grateful if you would also give me a full list of the fields and categories on the crime database including those fields and categories that have been deleted.

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED 03/01/17

Apologies - yes

Q2 should be addressed to you.

I can confirm that Staffordshire Police does hold the requested information.

In relation to your request, please take this as notice of refusal to provide the data under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act. I have applied section 14(1) Vexatious request exemption.

The data requested is presented across 4 spreadsheets each with over 200 columns and over 5000 rows in total, this gives a total of over a million cells, each of which has the potential to contain exempt information.

To enable the release of this data each of these cells would require reviewing and all exempt information removing. This would take an inordinate amount of time, and would require the finished documents to be double checked by a second Decision maker.

Although the data you have requested is readily available and easily retrievable the time required to review these substantial volumes of potentially exempt information and prepare it for disclosure would impose an excessive burden on the force, as outlined above.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this email and should be addressed to:

Roger Randle
Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Roger Randle
Freedom of Information Decision Maker



STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

FOI ref no: 8332

27 July 2017



Dear 

Freedom of Information request: reference 8332, first notified to us by email on 3 July 2017

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

I am making a request relating to the IPCC managed investigation into Staffordshire Police's handling of the Kevin Nunes murder, known as Operation Kalmia.

I would like to request copies of all Staffordshire Police internal memorandums and updates published on the force intranet, internal magazines or newsletters which relate to the aforementioned inquiry, its progress, recommendations and its findings from 2011 until present.

Decision about disclosure:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

Reasons:

We have determined that your request is vexatious under Section 14(1) (Vexatious Requests) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the subject makes it clear that Section 14(1) may be applied where a request, or its impact on a public authority, cannot be justified.

There are a number of key questions when considering whether or not a request is to be treated as vexatious, some of which include unreasonable persistence, working in concert with another, likely to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress based on the impact on

the authority, weighed against any evidence about the purpose and value of the request. We are also entitled to take into account the context and history of the request where this is relevant.

Staffordshire Police is treating this request as vexatious because you and another applicant are acting in concert as part of a campaign to cause disruption and unreasonable persistence to Staffordshire Police, causing an unjustified and disproportional burden on the force. The requests submitted by you and the other applicant are concerning the same subject. They are obsessive, persistent and are a means by which you and the other applicant are trying to re-open a matter that has already been addressed.

There are three Freedom of Information requests you have submitted to Staffordshire Police (Log 6533, 7637 and 8332), where the questions relate to the same subject and are either similar or identical to those requests submitted by the other applicant. You are now trying to obtain information refused to the other applicant by submitting the same request yourself (Log 8332).

The IPCC has conducted an investigation into Operation Kalmia and the findings have been comprehensively addressed. However, you and the other applicant appear to be trying to re-open this issue and carry out a deliberate campaign of disruption to Staffordshire Police.

The FOIA provides fundamental rights to the public to request access to recorded information held by public authorities. It should not be used to vent dissatisfaction with issues which have already been dealt with, independently scrutinised and are considered closed.

For the above reasons, we have concluded that your request is vexatious within the terms of Section 14(1) of the Act and we will not therefore be providing the information requested.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this email and should be addressed to:

Julie Ferrie
Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.



STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

FOI ref no:

16 August 2017



Dear 

Freedom of Information request: reference numbers 8511,8512, 8513, 8514, 8515, 8516, 8517, 8518, 8519 and 8520, first notified to us by email on 15 & 16 August 2017.

Thank you for your recent requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

I can confirm Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

These requests are being considered Vexatious under Section 14 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act. The act states that although applicant blind, when considering whether Section 14 (1) is engaged the following may be considered.

Frequent and Overlapping requests:

Scattergun Approach: –

As the topic areas of each request varies wildly, this indicates that the applicant is fishing for information. There is no direction to the requests.

No obvious intent to obtain information: –

Requester is abusing their rights under the Act but putting in so many requests in such a short period of time.

Fishing Expedition: –

The ICO guidance highlights that random requests (or fishing expeditions) and their effect on the public authority can be cause to make a request vexatious

The Dransfield case establishes that a vexatious request is one that is manifestly unjustified, inappropriate or an improper use of the FOIA procedures, which hinge upon four key principles

- 1. The burden placed upon a public authority and it's staff**
- 2. The Motive of the requestor**
- 3. The value or serious purpose of the request**
- 4. The harassment or distress (of and to staff)**

Discounting the requests received from yourself, Staffordshire Police has received 81 requests within the month of August, with a total of 117 requests currently outstanding and requiring a response.

As you are aware each request has a 20 day statutory deadline; should Staffordshire Police accept and process all of your requests it would place undue pressure upon the department to fulfil these, and would unfairly disadvantage those applicants who have applied correctly under the FOIA.

Please could you prioritise the information that you require and resubmit any single request in a concise and coherent manner.

Over a period of time all your requests may be answered, please exercise consideration when submitting further requests.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this email and should be addressed to:

Roger Randle
Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Roger Randle
Freedom of Information Decision Maker