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Information Access

Your Ref:	FOI Internal Review	Our Ref:	FOI 3516/21	Date:	18/11/2021
Contact Name:	Freedom of Information Team	Tel. Extension:	n/a	Direct Dial No:	01273 470101

Dear Mr. Onyeché,

I write with reference to your request for an Internal Review of your Freedom of Information request.

After conducting a further review of your request REF 1832, we would like to maintain the use of the exemptions Section 40 Personal Information & Section 30 Investigations.

Your original request:

Please supply me with all the witness statements that were made to Sussex Police in relation to sightings of the Gatwick "drone" for any date after 19th December 2018."

Internal Review:

Within the request for an internal review you ask for any and all information relating to someone's personal data to be redacted and further refine your request by suggesting that only information relating to the drone should be disclosed.

e.g. "content that provides a description of the "drone" in terms of its size and shape and colour, and also including descriptions of any light and sound that the "drone" may have been seen or heard by witnesses to have been emitted, as well as disclose and release any content which provides a description of the "drone" velocity (including any subjective word-terms such as "slow", "fast", as well as any estimated numeric velocities), and also disclose and release descriptions of the movement of the "drone", and the reported time-duration which a witness observed the drone, along with any estimations of the distances away from the "drone" that a witness stated they observed it from (including any subjective word-terms such as "close", "far" as well as any estimated numeric distances)".

Sussex Police would therefore like to slightly amend our original response based on the above changes;

We recognise that due to the above explanation, Section 40 is no longer applicable to the information you have requested.

However, we would like to maintain the position of using Section 30 Investigations to exempt this information. Further to our previous letter this is due to the case remaining undetected. Whilst there are no current or realistic lines of enquiry, there is the possibility that this case may be reopened at any point or new evidence could come to light. Due to the above reasons and those set out in our previous letter under Section 30 this information will not be disclosed under FOI.

It remains the case that other than information already in the public domain, information relating to an investigation is unlikely to be disclosed under FOIA (subject to the outcome of a Public Interest Test) as it is likely to prejudice that investigation.

To reiterate that the strongest reason favouring non-disclosure remains to be the significance and sensitivity of the requested information. Disclosure could potentially compromise any future lines of enquiry or investigation as the case in question has not been finalised. Sussex Police need to be allowed to carry out an investigation effectively away from public scrutiny to ensure accurate, thorough and objective investigative work is conducted throughout.

If you are still dissatisfied following the review, you should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details;

www.ico.org.uk

or

The Information Commissioners Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Should you have any questions about this response, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI team.

Yours sincerely,



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Reply email FOI@sussex.pnn.police.uk