



## ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

c/o PO BOX 481  
Fareham  
Hampshire  
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922

Email: [acpo.request@foi.pnn.police.uk](mailto:acpo.request@foi.pnn.police.uk)

17/03/2015

Dear Mr Adedeji

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 000042/15**

Thank you for your request for information regarding guidance on harassment which has now been considered.

**Applicant Question:**

Please be so kind as to send me a copy of your guidance referred to in the following text:

22.12 Harassment

Guidance from the Association of Chief Police Officers notes that failure to deal with harassment may leave a victim or others at serious risk. It also states that legal case law now suggests that the police force may be subject to legal challenge under the Human Rights Act 1998, if it does not respond reasonably in trying to protect people.

Above extract from pg 249 of: - safeguarding adults at risk of harm: A legal guide for practitioners. Michael Mandelstam.

First published in Great Britain in December 2011 by the Social care Institute for Excellence.

**ACPO Response:**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires ACPO, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption, to provide you with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your requests.

Unfortunately your request exceeds the fees limit as outlined by the Secretary of State in that to ascertain exactly what information may be held by ACPO would take longer than 18 hours.

Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act provides an exemption from a public authority's obligation to comply with a request for information where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed the appropriate limit.

It is primarily the broad nature of your question, which causes the limit to be exceeded. Even focusing only on the likely business area where the guidance may be held would exceed the cost threshold of 18 hours allocated for location, extraction and retrieval of relevant information as guidance may be in the form of minutes of meetings, doctrine, emails and other forms of communication.

The extract that you refer to within your request does not provide detail of where the guidance was sourced and from whom.

It may assist you to understand that ACPO brings together the expertise of Chief Officers in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, providing a professional forum to share ideas and best practice, coordinate resources and help deliver effective policing which keeps the public safe.

The Business Area for crime, for example, draws together all aspects of crime including rape, domestic violence, knife crime, guns and gangs. There are presently 119 portfolios under the crime business area.

In order to assist you, I have made enquiries with the present national policing portfolio for Stalking and Harassment who has advised that the only published guidance to forces that the portfolio hold is a public document which provides practice advice on investigating stalking and harassment.

For your convenience, I provide a direct web-link:

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2009/200908CRISAH01.pdf>

Yours sincerely

Sherry Traquair  
**Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker**

[www.acpo.police.uk](http://www.acpo.police.uk)

## **COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

### **Internal Review**

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with ACPO to have the decision reviewed within 2 months of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to ACPO Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with ACPO, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.