

22nd July 2019

Mr Buxton

request-585096-e10d10fd@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Buxton

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20191481

REQUEST

The following statement was made at an ‘initial risk assessment meeting’ with South Yorkshire Police; “The new protestors, believed to be professional, are aggressive in nature and have been directing this towards the workers. They have pulled on and cut safety ropes of Amey workers, olive oil has been sprayed on trees (this could cause a chainsaw to slip), and one tree was discovered to have been studded with nails and glass. Protestors are also taking their, often very young, children to protests.” This was subsequently quoted in V1 of the Communications plan for operation Quito and was apparently subjected to 5x5x5 intelligence evaluation.

- 1.1 What date was this ‘initial risk assessment’ meeting held?*
- 1.2 Was this meeting minuted?*
- 1.3 What companies, organisations and other parties were represented at this meeting?*
- 1.4 Which company or organisation was being represented by the person or persons that made the statement above?*
- 1.5 Was corroboration sought by South Yorkshire Police to establish the veracity of this statement? What corroboration was identified by SYP*
- 1.6 When was V1 of the operation’s Communications Plan signed off for distribution?*
- 1.7 How many versions of the Communications plan for operation Quito were created? Please supply the dates each version was signed off for distribution?*
- 2.1 When was the 5x5x5 evaluation of the ‘intelligence’ above initiated and when was it completed?*
- 2.2 What ‘Source Evaluation’ category was assigned to this ‘intelligence’ pursuant to the 5x5x5 evaluation; 1, 2 or 3?*
- 2.3 When intelligence assessment was graded for reliability of the source what category was assigned pursuant to the 5x5x5 evaluation; A, B, C, D or E?*
- 2.5 Was each separate allegation in the statement evaluated individually?*
- 2.6 What Handling Code and conditions were assigned to this ‘intelligence’?*
- 3. When the ‘intelligence’ was evaluated using the 5x5x5 method, was reference made to information previously supplied to and acted upon by SYP relating to Operation Testate.*

RESPONSE

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a.states that fact,
- b.specifies the exemption in question and
- c.states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

Section 21 'Information which is reasonably accessible by other means'.

Much of the information is available on the South Yorkshire Police website either within the Categories of Significant Interest or the Freedom of Information Disclosure Log:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/right-to-information/categories-of-significant-interest/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/right-to-information/categories-of-significant-interest/operation-quito-tree-felling-from-jan-2018/op-quitotestate-response/>

FOI requests on this subject can be found within the Disclosure Log by searching with keywords eg. "Quito" or "Testate"

Q1.1- 1.5

The transcripts can be found on our SYP Disclosure Log - redactions and exemption apply as previously stated.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/op-quito-meetings-ref-20190374/>

Q1.6-1.7

The Comms Plan can be found on SYP Disclosure Log – redactions and exemption apply as previously stated.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/media/2678/op-quito-communications-plan-note-publish.pdf>

Q2.1-3

I have made reference to the information within my plan but the source and evaluation would not be disclosed.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/right-to-information/categories-of-significant-interest/operation-quito-tree-felling-from-jan-2018/op-quitotestate-response/>

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by following the advice contained in the separate notice enclosed with this correspondence:

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire, SK9 5AF.
Telephone: 08456 306060 or 01625 545745
Website: www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Louise Holmes
Information Compliance Clerk
South Yorkshire Police
Information Compliance Unit
Professional Standards Department
Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park
Churchill Way
Sheffield
S35 2PY

Please note that police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide information and statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this forces response to your questions should not be used for the comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

South Yorkshire Police provides you the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure (copy enclosed). If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Constabulary's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

The South Yorkshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to The Force Solicitor, South Yorkshire Police, Police Headquarters, 5 Carbrook Hall Road, Sheffield, S9 2EG

Appeal Process for Freedom of Information

Using this process will not affect your right to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner. However, it will usually be quicker if matters can be resolved locally using this process.

Who can appeal?

Anyone who has requested information from the Force in writing can appeal within 20 working days from the date of the response provided. If you have requested information and you are not satisfied with the way we have dealt with your request, you can use the appeal process to have it looked at again. If someone who requested information would like to appeal but cannot do so themselves you can appeal on their behalf, but it will help us if you make it clear that you are doing so.

What can I appeal about?

You can appeal about the range, amount and format of information we have sent following a request. You can also appeal about the way a request was handled – for example, the time it took to respond, or the way letters were worded.

How do I appeal?

You can appeal by writing, emailing or faxing your appeal/complaint to the address below. To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible, it will help if you can give us as much information as you can about the request made, such as the reference number, and the reason for your appeal/ complaint.

What happens to my appeal?

Once we have enough details to identify the request you are concerned about, a qualified person, other than the initial decision maker, will deal with the internal review.

How long does it take?

Whatever their conclusion, you will be informed of the result as soon as possible, and in any case within 20 days of submitting your appeal.

If you are still not satisfied, you may then appeal to the Information Commissioner.

Appeal Address

**Information Compliance Unit South Yorkshire Police Professional Standards
Department Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park Churchill Way Sheffield S35 2PY**

Email foi@southyorks.pnn.police.uk