

21st October 2020

Will Scott

request-696501-3e1fba56@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Will Scott

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20202147

REQUEST

Please could you supply me with a print out/copy of the front page of your internal intranet (redacting any sensitive information of course).

RESPONSE

I have taken a 'screen shot' of the intranet as of today. However, I am not prepared to release in full, the information on the screen print.

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 40 (2) – Personal Information

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption.

Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. This may take an obvious form of 'personal information' such as a name.

Section 31 (1) (a) (b) Law Enforcement states that information is exempt information if its disclosure under the Act would, or would likely to prejudice:

- a) The prevention or detection of crime;
- b) The apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

This exemption is a qualified and prejudice based exemption and therefore the legislators accept that there may be harm if released. The authority has to consider and describe the harm that would occur if a full disclosure of information were released.

HARM

It is important to stress that when a disclosure is made under the Freedom of Information Act, it is a disclosure to the world and not to a single individual. In view of this, we may publish information released under the Freedom of Information Act on our website in order that any member of the public who may wish to view the information can have access to it. This means that a disclosure is open to genuine and interested persons, but at the same time also includes those that would use the information to gain an advantage over our Force.

Our Intranet is used by all our Officers and Staff members as a timely and effective form of communicating lots of different information. This can include critical and sensitive material.

Public Interest Test

Considerations favouring disclosure

- A full release of information would show that SYP is proactive in its operational areas
- Disclosure would demonstrate SYPs commitment to transparency and openness
- It would allow the public to engage with our Officers and Staff regarding internal information

Considerations favouring non-disclosure

- The information could be used by those with criminal intent to determine our forces capability at a certain time or place, which would provide them with an advantage.
- It may reveal sensitive or tactical details that relate to policing activity, and this could hinder investigations.

I have carefully considered your request for information. The key test when considering the public interest is to establish whether in all the circumstances of the request the public interest in disclosing information is not outweighed by that in maintaining the exemption or exemptions.

Although I am aware of the need for Public Authorities to demonstrate a level of openness and transparency, I am of the opinion that protecting our operational capability is a more compelling argument. South Yorkshire Police cannot risk compromising the ability of Officers to effectively carry out their duty.

Having weighed up both parts of the public interest test, I have decided on balance that it is not in the public interest to provide all the details on the 'Screen Shot'.

Please find attached the 'screen shot' of our Intranet page with the relevant redactions.

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

Jane Adamson
Information Compliance Clerk
South Yorkshire Police
Information Compliance Unit
Performance and Governance
Unit 20 Sheffield 35A Business Park
Churchill Way
Sheffield
S35 2PY

Email - foi@southyorks.police.uk

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. 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 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