



Humberside Police  
Corporate Development Branch  
Information Compliance Unit  
Priory Road  
Kingston Upon Hull  
HU5 5SF  
Tel: +44 (1482) 317099  
Fax: +44 (1482) 317090

Mr. Cant

Your Ref:  
Our Ref: F-2011-00740

21 April, 2011

Dear Mr. Cant,

**FREEDOM of INFORMATION ACT 2000 Reference No: F-2011-00740**

Thank you for your request for Information, received at this office on 01 April, 2011, in which you requested details of the following:

**Number of known breaches of protocol in relation to child safety matters after the bichard enquiry**

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1. Number of know incidences were records have not been check properly regarding safety checks for placements. of children .
2. Number of accepted mistakes in relation to record keeping/ maintenance.

and

what's the total amount of these searches you have done each year, since the bichard enquiry.

3. What are your internal instructions / protocol when one of these breaches have occurred ( ie what do you do when this happens )

**You clarified in response to:**

**Please could you clarify in relation to what protocol you are referring to?**

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**Any breches of regulations/ guidelines that were imposed after the bichard enquirey. le mistaes made by you in relation to implimenting them since they were made.**

**One good example may be, say if you didnt do a police saftey check when you were supposed to, or, if when you did, you did not check all the required databases.**

*Chief Constable T. S. Hollis CBE, QPM    Deputy Chief Constable D. J. Griffin MA*  
*Assistant Chief Constable (Operations Support) A. Leaver    Assistant Chief Constable (Operations) S. M. Donald MA*  
*Assistant Chief Officer (Support) P. S. Goatley BA (Hons), CPFA    Assistant Chief Officer (Human Resources) I. Watson MBA, MSc, FCIPD*  
Web site: [www.humberside.police.uk](http://www.humberside.police.uk)

The Freedom of Information Act requires that this request is dealt with in a manner that is motive and applicant blind. A disclosure under this legislation is considered a disclosure to the world and is considered to be on the basis that it is in the public interest.

This response is unique to Humberside Police and you are advised not to compare this like for like with any other force's response you receive.

### Response

In satisfaction of section 1(1) of the Act Humberside Police can confirm some of the information is held however in order to determine if all the information is held would exceed the appropriate limit as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

### Rationale why section 12 of the Act applies.

In order to determine if there has been non compliance of a safety check or not checking all relevant police databases would require a search of all child protection referral records on the old and new system since the Bichard Inquiry. This would require a manual search of thousands of records to determine that each child protection referral was dealt with appropriately and how many checks have been carried out. As a rough estimate it would take 10 minutes to review each record to establish the details of the referral and cross reference these with other data to make sure the check was carried out appropriately. Therefore to search through thousands of records would greatly exceed the appropriate limit which is set at 18 hours or as a cost equivalent of £450.

Section 12 states: S1 (1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit.

Activities that are included within our time estimations are:

Determining whether the information is held;

Locating the information;

Retrieving the information;

Extracting the information to be disclosed

The following have not been included within our calculations:

The time spent identifying information to be exempted;

The time dedicated to the process of redaction

In accordance with section 17(5) of the Act this represents a refusal notice for your request.

However as a gesture of good will I provide the following information outside of the Act:

Humberside Police is not aware of any known breaches where we are asked to under take a police safety check or where required to check all police databases.

Humberside Police has a good relationship with Children's Social Care and that when we share information with them within the Public Protection Teams this is recorded on the Child Protection Database including which databases have been checked and what information we are sharing with them. To put this into context in 2010 we have a recorded 14568 records on the Child Protection Database under various categories the majority of which will have been shared with Children's Social Care. So far this year the figure is 4446.

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What is important to note that within each record we will check a number of databases. As a Force we are moving towards the use of PND (Police National Database) which was a key recommendation from the Bichard Inquiry and will replace the current INI system in place.

Should you need to discuss this further please contact James Green, Information Compliance Officer on the above details.

Yours sincerely,

James Green  
Information Compliance Officer

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## Humberside Police – Freedom of Information Complaints Review Procedure

### Why Have A Complaints Process?

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Humberside Police is committed to delivering an open and transparent service whenever possible and it is our intention to commit to the principles of openness embodied in the Freedom of Information Act. We will release information to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the public interest, however we may withhold information if we consider its release would cause significant harm.

If information within a document is withheld, it will be clearly marked to show where information has been removed and the legal exemption we have used. If we decline to supply all or part of any information you have asked for we will notify you in writing giving our reasons based upon legal exemptions contained within the Freedom of Information Act.

If you are not satisfied about the way in which your Freedom of Information request has been handled you have the right to appeal. This information has been designed to help you to understand how to complain to Humberside Police. Using this process will not affect your right to complain directly to the Information Commissioner if you feel we have not complied with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

### Who Can Complain?

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Anyone who has made a Freedom of Information request in writing to the Force can complain. If you have requested information and you are not satisfied with the way we have dealt with it, you can use the complaints process to have it looked at again. If someone who requested information would like to complain but cannot do so themselves, you can complain on their behalf but it will help us if you make it clear that you are doing so.

### What Can I Complain About?

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If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request, with the fee we have charged, or with the reasons we have given for refusing to provide information, you have the right to appeal. You can complain about the range, amount and format of information we have sent following a request. You can also complain about the way a request was handled, for example, the time it took to respond.

### How Do I Complain?

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To deal with your complaint as quickly as possible, it will help if you can give us as much information as you can about the original request made and the reason for your complaint. Please put your complaint in writing and address it to:

FOI Appeals

[Humberside Police Information Compliance Unit](#)

Police Headquarters

Priory Road

Hull HU5 5SF

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## What Happens To My Complaint?

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Once we have enough details to identify the request, we will begin the review. The Head of The Information Compliance Unit will normally review your complaint. In the more complex cases a review panel consisting of a number of senior personnel from the Force will re-examine your complaint. We aim to complete the review process within 20 days of receiving your complaint. Upon completion we will send you the findings.

## How Will I Be Notified?

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Where we have not followed procedures or have failed to provide acceptable quality of service, we will apologise and explain what we will do to ensure this doesn't happen again. If our original decision to withhold information is over-turned on appeal we will send you the additional information immediately. If we believe that our original response was correct we will let you know, and inform you of your options (see below).

## What If I'm Still Not Satisfied?

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If we have been unable to resolve your complaint and you are not satisfied you can approach the office of the Information Commissioner, who may investigate the matter on your behalf. This option is open to you at all times, but we will endeavour to address your complaint initially, as this may lead to a speedier resolution. It is the Information Commissioner who decides whether to investigate or not. We will co-operate fully with the Information Commissioner.

If you have any further questions about the complaints process, please contact the Information Compliance Unit on 01482 317097 or alternatively you can write to:

*Head of Information Compliance Unit*  
*Humberside Police Headquarters*  
*Priory Road*  
*Hull HU5 5SF*  
Email: [Informationcomplianceunit@humberside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Informationcomplianceunit@humberside.pnn.police.uk)

Requests for a review by the Information Commissioner should be made in writing directly to:

*The Information Commissioner*  
*Wycliffe House*  
*Water Lane*  
*Wilmslow*  
*Cheshire*  
*SK9 5AF*  
**Phone: 01625 545 700**  
**[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)**

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