

Data Protection Office

Police Headquarters, Saunders Lane, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB

Tel: 01772 413203 / 412144 / 413050

Email: FOI@lancashire.police.uk



Daniel O'Finn

Date: 24/05/2023

Dear Daniel O'Finn

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION REFERENCE NO: FOI2023/01328

Thank you for your request for information received by Lancashire Constabulary on 27th April which was as follows:

Please can you provide me with a breakdown of Special Constable numbers, broken down by their individual patrol status.

For example, the count of current members of your Special Constabulary who are Accompanied Patrol Status (APS), Directed Patrol Status (DPS), Qualified Special Constable (QSC), or Qualified Special Constable - Full (QSC-F).

If you have not adopted the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF) for your Special Constabulary, please provide the breakdown of officers who have achieved Independent Patrol Status (IPS) and those who have not.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held. Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of the FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which: a) states that fact; b) specifies the exemptions in question and c) state (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption(s) applies.

Your request has now been considered and the information you are seeking is held and can be found below:

Lancashire Constabulary have not adopted the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF) for the Special Constabulary, we have provided below a breakdown of officers who have achieved Independent Patrol Status (IPS) and those who have not.

38 Specials IP Status
57 Specials non-IP Status
27 Student officers currently in initial training.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of our decision, you should write to the Data Protection Officer, Data Protection Office, Police Headquarters, Saunders Lane, Hutton, Preston PR4 5SB or alternatively send an email to FOI@lancashire.police.uk. Details of the Constabulary's Freedom of Information Complaint Procedures can be found at the bottom of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Lancashire Constabulary. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Yours sincerely

Information Access Team
Data Protection Office

LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

FOI COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE



Introduction

Lancashire Constabulary is committed to delivering an open, transparent and accountable service whenever possible and it is our intention to commit to the principles of openness embodied in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). The Constabulary will endeavour to meet its obligations and duties under the Act and its associated Codes of Practice, respond to all applicants who request information in a helpful and timely manner.

We will release information to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the public interest, but we may withhold information if we consider its release would subsequently cause significant harm. We therefore recognise that there might be occasions when an applicant is not content with the Constabulary's response or the content of our Publication Scheme.

What can I complain about?

The complaint may concern any aspect of the way in which your request has been dealt with. If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request or with the reasons we have given for refusing to provide information, you have the right to appeal.

How do I complain?

Any dissatisfaction expressed in writing with regards to the way in which your request has been handled will be treated as a complaint and an internal review of the response will be conducted. As such please be advised that any complaints must be made in writing within 40 working days of receiving your FOI Response. In order that your complaint will be dealt with 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. It should detail:

- What the original request was
- The nature of the complaint
- Why you feel you should have received more information - should that be the case

Please forward details of your complaint to:

The Data Protection Office, Lancashire Constabulary Headquarters, PO Box 77,
Hutton, Preston, PR4 5SB

foi@lancashire.police.uk

If you have any further questions about the complaints process, please contact the Data Protection Office on 01772 413329 or use the email address above.

What happens to my complaint?

Once the complaint has been received, you will receive an acknowledgement confirming receipt of your appeal.

The complaint will be passed to the Data Protection Officer for attention. Arrangements will then be made for the complaint to be considered by a Panel comprising of at least two of the following persons:

- Data Protection Officer
- Deputy Data Protection Officer
- Information Compliance Data Protection Advisor
- Information Access Team Leader

At least one member of the Panel will not have been party to the original decision.

In reviewing the response, the Panel will consider the information relating to the decision, what/if any information has been provided, and the grounds of the complaint(s). Where necessary the Panel may seek information / clarification from the decision maker / information holder.

The final decision will be recorded and the applicant will be notified of the outcome in writing. If the original decision is reversed, or an issue is identified with regard to how the request was dealt with, appropriate consideration will be given to request handling procedures.

How will I be notified?

You should normally receive a final response within 20 working days. If it is not possible to meet this deadline, you will be notified of the new deadline, usually not longer than 40 days.

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.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner's Office cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Lancashire Constabulary. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/>