

05 November 2013

Your Ref:

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2013-1288

Ms Shona Scott
request-180585-
efd7ef6f@whatdotheyknow.com



Sir Stephen House QPM
Chief Constable

FOI Central Processing Unit
173 Pitt Street
Glasgow
G2 4JS

xxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xxxxxx.xx

Dear Ms Scott

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002
SUBJECT: Operation Algebra

I refer to your email dated 10 October 2013 regarding the above which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

In your email you asked the following questions relating to Operation Algebra. I will respond to each question, in turn.

1 What was the purpose, remit and terms of reference of the operation

Operation Algebra was formed to investigate reports of child sexual abuse and offenders using the Internet for the distribution, manufacture, possession, and sharing of indecent images of children.

The operation was widely reported on at the time, and you can find a number of these reports available on new outlets, such as the BBC, such as the link below:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8035680.stm

2 What dates it ran

Operation Algebra ran between 2007 and 2009.

3 What results it achieved in terms of number of arrests, number charged, number of convictions and for what offences for each

Eight individuals were charged and convicted of offences. These were reported in the media at the time, therefore section 25 of FOISA applies: information is exempt information if it is otherwise accessible.

4 Who the Police officer was in charge and how many officers were on the operation

Detective Superintendent Allan Jones was in charge of the operation. There was a core team of 6 officers but this increased to 13 at the peak of the investigation.

5 Why the operation was instigated

The operation was instigated after a report was made about the recovery of indecent images of children.

6 Where the operation was run from and what area did it cover

The operation was run from Leith and Portobello Police Stations in Edinburgh, as part of the legacy Lothian and Borders Police, but had national / international links.

7 Why was the name chosen and whether it had always had that name or whether there were connected operations

There was no particular reason for picking this name. Local divisions kept a register of available operational names. The first letter reflected the division it belonged to e.g. operations beginning with "a" belonged to A Division (former City of Edinburgh division). These names were taken from the dictionary and allocated to each operation on an alphabetical basis.

8 Where this information is now kept, and in what form -physical or electronic

Information relating to offences is kept in line with our Records Retention schedule. Files exist in electronic and paper format.

9 What the Police service in your area is known as -a Constabulary, Service, Force, just Police or other and if so what, and what your corporate number is

Lothian and Borders Police became part of the Police Service of Scotland on 1st April 2013.

I am unsure as to what you mean by corporate number. If you are able to provide clarification I can look in to this for you.

I trust that the information available is of assistance and should you require any further assistance concerning this matter please contact me on 0131 311 3901 quoting the reference number given.

If you are not satisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with, you are entitled in the first instance and within 40 working days of receiving this letter to request a review of the decision made by the Force. Should you wish to do so, contact details are; Police Service of Scotland, FOI Central Processing Unit, 173 Pitt Street, Glasgow, G2 4JS. (Or email xxx@xxxxxxxx.xxx.xxxxxx.xx)

Once informed of the Review decision, if you are still not satisfied, then you are entitled to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. Contact details are; 'Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS', telephone 01334 464610.

Yours sincerely

Gabriella Trybalska
Information Management
Freedom of Information