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Wednesday 12 September 2012

Dear Ms Laws

FOI Reference No: FOI- Our ref: FOI-20122/293965

Thank you for your request for information received by West Yorkshire Police on 17 August 2012.

You requested the following information:

Research shows that West Yorkshire Police are working jointly with the IFB in operation 'Thatcham'

What risk assessments have you performed of such involvement?

Will you share these risk assessments with the public?

Have you been subject to any complaints consequent to your involvement in activities with the Insurance Fraud Bureau?

The IFB website refers to a strategy to disrupt 'professional facilitators' ?

What is your involvement in, and understanding of, this strategy?

This strategy seems to ignore the need to prove dishonesty or criminal intent, is this correct?

Have you arrested, cautioned or charged any 'professional facilitators' such as solicitors, barristers, doctors, nurses or physiotherapists, at the behest of the IFB?

How much money has or is the IFB paying West yorkshire police for conducting operation Thatcham?

How many police officers have been transferred from routine duties in order to conduct operation Thatcham for the IFB?

Section 17 of the Act provides:

(1) A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is to any extent relying on a claim that information is exempt information must, within the time for complying with Section 1(1), give the applicant a notice which:-

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

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 obliges us to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. We must consider firstly whether we can comply with S1(1)(a) of the Act, which is our duty to confirm whether or not the information requested is held and secondly we must comply with S1(1)(b), which is the provision of such information. However, when a qualified exemption applies either to the confirmation or denial or the information provision and the public interest test is engaged, the Act allows the time for response to be longer than 20 working days, if the balance of such public interest is undetermined.

In this case, we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies in respect of either of the above obligations. We estimate that it will take an additional 20 working days to take a decision on where this balance lies.

I would like to apologise in advance for the delay in responding to your request. Please be assured that we will endeavour to send a response out to you as soon as possible.

If you no longer require the information requested, please contact us on the details above.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Kirsti Smith
Information Management

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Steven Harding
Head of Information Management

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