



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Information Management

Freedom Of Information

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Monday 12 October 2012

Dear Ms Laws

FOI Reference No: 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'

1) What risk assessments have you performed of such involvement?

2) Will you share these risk assessments with the public?

***CLARIFICATION ***

By risk assessment I would mean this to refer to a process whereby the police would have confirmed the authenticity and legal standing of the IFB. Sought confirmation from a higher authority e.g. the CPS / DPP / Parliament, on the acceptability of receiving payments from the IFB. Evaluated the risk to the reputation of the police were a case which had been initiated and funded by the IFB, to later prove to be mistaken/illegal/invalid or, as the honourable judge is reported to have said at Southwark Crown Court, 'scandalous'. Evaluated the risk to the public purse/tax payer of having to pay compensation where an IFB initiated case is struck out or deemed invalid. (have the police, in the alternative, made an agreement with the IFB that were a case to fail or lead to compensation claims for damages, then the IFB would indemnify the police actions, in order to protect the public purse/taxpayer.)

West Yorkshire Police hold no information. The Insurance Fraud Bureau has been contacted for basic information about the car insurance industry. They are not funding any aspect of the enquiry, it is a Police initiated operation. No risk assessment has been undertaken.

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

CLARIFICATION

By complaints, I would mean this to refer to any concerns raised by any member of the public, any police, legal or medical professional, in relation to any aspect of these operations initiated by the IFB or

at the request of the IFB or on receiving payment from the IFB. Such concerns could be in writing, verbal or by electronic communication.

West Yorkshire Police hold no information.

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

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

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

West Yorkshire Police hold no information.

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

West Yorkshire Police hold no information. We do not make arrests at the 'behest' of any person or body. Arrests are made on the basis of reasonable suspicion and must comply with the requirements of criminal law.

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

West Yorkshire Police hold no information.

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

West Yorkshire Police hold no information. No staff have been deviated from routine duties.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in dealing with your request.

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are not satisfied with how this request has been handled or with the information provided, please read the advice notice attached to this letter. If you do wish to take up your right of complaint, please remember to quote the reference number above in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Julia Jones
Freedom Of Information

pp Steven Harding
Head of Information Management

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

1. Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to request that West Yorkshire Police review their decision. Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

2. Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter. That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

3. Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of West Yorkshire Police made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding access to information, you can lodge a written complaint to have the decision internally reviewed.

A West Yorkshire Police internal review of your decision will be carried out by a senior member of staff, who is fully trained in interpreting Freedom of Information legislation, yet is independent with regards to the original decision made, i.e. has never previously been involved with your request.

Complaints will only be treated as valid if they are received by West Yorkshire Police within a 60 day timeframe from the date of the decision letter. They must include the original FOI Reference Number and can only be submitted in writing by using the following contact details:

xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.police.uk

or

West Yorkshire Police
FOI Internal Reviews
PO Box 9
Laburnum Road
Wakefield
WF1 3QP

In all possible circumstances West Yorkshire Police will aim to complete and respond to your internal review within 20 working days; however this date may be extendable in exceptional circumstances by another 20 working days.

4. The Information Commissioner

If you are still dissatisfied with the internal review decision made by West Yorkshire Police, you may then make an application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can phone their helpline or write to them at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
FOI Help Line: 0303 1231113