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Tuesday 31 July 2012

Dear Mr Willis,

Freedom of Information Reference: Our ref: FOI-20122/291819

Thank you for your correspondence received by my office on the 31 July 2012.

You have requested the following information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

Under the freedom of information act 2000 could you please provide me with the following information.

On the 29/1/2012 in Bramley, Leeds, PCSO 6298 made a threat that she had the power to confiscate the camera that a member of the public was using to record the officers actions. She then continued to insist that the member of public stop filming her.

As this officer has no such power to make such a confiscation, nor demand that she not be filmed, this can be regarded as an unlawful attempt by one of your PCSOs to needlessly harass and bully a member of the public into compliance. One of numerous instances that occur daily in the UK.

The entire event can be seen on Youtube here:-

www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=_sX2afvThhQ

My question to you, is could you please tell me if PCSO 6298 and or any of the officers who assisted her unlawful threats have been disciplined in regards to this incident.

Although the police would accept such a video as evidence to be submitted against a member of public for prosecution, the IPCC claim that members of the public cannot use the same type of video evidence to complain about the police.

Therefore as I am precluded from complaining to your Professional Standards Department about the actions of this officer, I am obligated to use Freedom of Information to 'enquire' instead.

Your request will now be considered and you will receive a response within the statutory timescale of 20 working days as defined by the Act, subject to the information not being exempt. In some circumstances West Yorkshire Police may be unable to achieve this deadline. If this is likely you will be informed at the earliest opportunity. If you no longer require the information, please inform us at your earliest convenience.

The information supplied in connection with this application will be used for the purpose of the administering of this request and to ensure the accuracy of Police systems.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Thackray
Freedom of Information Project Officer

pp
Steven Harding
Head of Information Management

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