

Thames Valley Police Chief Constable Francis Habgood QPM

Headquarters
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Mr Ian Gilbert

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Our ref: HQ/PA/000568/18

5 March 2018

Dear Mr Gilbert

I write in response to the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted on 16/02/2018. Thames Valley Police has now considered this request, which for clarity, has been repeated below:

Request

Please provide a copy of all policies and procedures, and guidelines officers should adhere to, relevant to a fear for welfare report that would lead to officers forcing entry to premises to search for an individual. Please clarify all the information recording that would be required to be entered onto which forms (electronic or paper), and onto which systems?

Please clarify who would give authorisation to force entry to premises under s17 save life or limb, and where the justification for this decision would be recorded?

Response

Thames Valley Police can confirm that it follows the national codes of practice issued relating to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. This guidance can be found here;

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/police-and-criminal-evidence-act-1984-pace-codes-of-practice.

However the justification/authorisation for 'fear for welfare' entry into premises comes under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, as follows; https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/60/contents.

Information relating to the above may be recorded in various formats, depending on the circumstances.

Please note that any further requests on this subject may be considered under section 14(1) of the FOIA.

POLICE

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Complaint Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision made by Thames Valley Police, you can lodge a complaint with the force to have the decision reviewed within two months of the date of this response. Complaints should be made in writing to the FOI inbox; publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

If, after lodging a complaint with Thames Valley Police, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely

Amy Foster
Public Access
Joint Information Management Unit