



**Katy Grunblat**

Senior Information Access Officer  
Information Management Services

[foi@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk)

Ms Ellie Clayton

[request-137432-ffc0e3ea@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-137432-ffc0e3ea@whatdotheyknow.com)

**Direct line**

020 7601 2287

**Direct fax**

020 7601 2323

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:** COL/12/616

18 December 2012

Dear Ms Clayton,

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REF: COL/12/616**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8 November 2012 in which you seek access to the following information:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I seek the following information about the policing of the 2011 Lord Mayor's Show*

*1. A breakdown of the total cost of policing of the 2011 Lord Mayors Show, on Saturday 12 November.*

*2. The number of officers engaged in policing the 2011 Lord Mayor's show.*

*3. The number of officers involved in policing the Occupy London 'Not the Lord Mayors Show' event at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 12 November 2011.*

*4. If possible at this stage I would also like information about the cost and staffing, either prospective or actual, of the 2012 Lord Mayors Show*

*If the decision is made to withhold some of this data using exemptions in the Data Protection Act, please inform me of that fact and cite the exemptions used.*

Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4

I confirm that information relating to the cost and staffing of the Lord Mayor's Show is held by the City of London Police.

**Bishopsgate Police Station**

182 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4NP

**Tel** 020 7601 2287      **Textphone** 020 7601 2906

**www**.cityoflondon.police.uk

It is our decision that this information is subject to the following exemptions in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act:

Section 24(1) - National Security  
Section 31(1) (a) and (b) - Law Enforcement

Information is exempt by virtue of section 24 where the exemption is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security. This is a prejudice-based exemption subject to the identification of harm, which is detailed below. It is also a qualified exemption subject to an assessment of the public interest and the factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure are listed below.

Information is exempt by virtue of section 31 where its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or the administration of justice. This is a prejudice-based exemption subject to the identification of harm, which is detailed below. It is also a qualified exemption subject to an assessment of the public interest and the factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure are listed below.

### **Identification of harm – Section 24**

The greatest priority for City of London Police is to ensure the safety and security of the Lord Mayor, the participants of the show as well as members of the public. The release of information identifying the focus of policing activity could affect the safeguarding of public order and the prevention of terrorism as this information could be used to the advantage of terrorists or criminal organisations. The Lord Mayor's Show also passes many iconic UK sites which may be potential targets for national and international terrorists and protestors. The disclosure of information that undermines operational integrity will adversely affect public safety, and have a negative impact on national security. The Lord Mayor's Show is an annual event and disclosure of the requested information could lead to ineffective policing of this event in the future.

### **Identification of harm – Section 31**

The disclosure of costs and staffing of the Lord Mayor's Show could highlight the level of policing involved for this event which would enable those intent on public disorder and those engaged in criminal activity to identify the focus of the policing and use this information to commit crime or avoid apprehension. The disclosure of such information would reveal operational information which would be to the detriment of providing an efficient policing service and a failure in providing a duty of care to all members of the public. This would also affect law enforcement in the future as more resources would be required to police this annual event.

### **Assessment of the public interest**

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The public interest is not what interests the public, but what will be of greater good if released to the community as a whole. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that may compromise the City of London Police's ability to fulfil its core functions. Information concerning the costs and staffing of the Lord Mayor's Show is rarely disclosed so that the intelligence and resources used do not become public knowledge thereby rendering them ineffective.

#### **Factors favouring disclosure – section 24**

Disclosure would enable the public to see where public funds are being spent and where resources are being distributed within a specific area of policing. In the current financial climate of cuts and with the call for transparency of public spending, disclosure would increase public awareness and reinforce the City of London Police's commitment to openness and transparency.

#### **Factors favouring non-disclosure – section 24**

Disclosure of operational information is not in the public interest if the safety and security of individuals would be compromised in the future. Security measures are put in place to protect the community we serve and as evidenced above, disclosure of information that undermines operational integrity will adversely affect public safety, and have a negative impact on national security.

#### **Factors favouring disclosure – section 31**

Disclosure would enable the public to see where public funds are being spent and where resources are being distributed within a specific area of policing. In the current financial climate of cuts and with the call for transparency of public spending, disclosure would increase public awareness and reinforce the City of London Police's commitment to openness and transparency.

#### **Factors favouring non-disclosure – section 31**

Disclosure of this information would compromise the core policing objective of law enforcement, as outlined earlier, by enabling those intent on public disorder and those engaged in criminal activity to identify the focus of the policing and use this information to commit crime or avoid apprehension. The Lord Mayor's Show is an annual event and so it would also affect law enforcement in the future as more resources would be required to police this event.

#### **Balancing the public interest**

The strongest reason favouring disclosure of the requested information is the public interest in the use of public funds and where these resources are being distributed within a specific area of policing.

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The strongest reason favouring non-disclosure is that disclosure would affect the policing of future events which would impact on both law enforcement and national security. Disclosure would hinder the ability of City of London Police to prevent and detect crime at future shows and would likely have to adapt its strategies at future events if through the Freedom of Information Act, the public at large are able to ascertain the capabilities and resources available for planning and policing this annual event. Disclosure would also enable criminals to evade apprehension and detection at future events.

I consider that the benefit that would result from the information being disclosed does not outweigh the arguments favouring exemption. For this reason, I am of the opinion that the public interest does not favour disclosure at this time.

Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying to your request. Should you have any further questions, please contact me via e-mail, letter or telephone, quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

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