

Mr Andrew Watson

request-80925-04852a0d@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: FOI 155/11
20th September 2011

Dear Mr Watson,

I am writing with reference to your request for information regarding Project Lantern, dated 30th August 2011, made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

You asked for the following information:

Please send me the following documents relating to Project Lantern:

- 1. The final report on the project.*
- 2. "Lantern Technical Options Paper – evaluation of fingerprint sensor technologies" by Ambika Suman.*
- 3. "Lantern performance and scalability report", (CCN014R2-20.2-1.0 dated 17 July 2007).*
- 4. Any later revision of (3) above provided to NPIA in response to recommendation 4 in "Lantern Project – The Way Forward" (IDT004-0101-project way forward - project board recommendations 080403 v0-1).*
- 5. "LANTERN Service Expansion Test Summary Report" (Document ID 4 in section 4.2 of "Contract Change Note 050 IDENT1-LANTERN Service Expansion").*
6. Any report held by NPIA resulting from an evaluation of the Fingerprint False Match Rate (FMR) and False Non-Match Rate (FNMR) achieved in the field during the LANTERN trial. (question as revised in request received on 30/08/2011).

The NPIA holds some of the information in your request but to respond to question 6, although revised, the NPIA estimates that it would exceed the cost limit; as to do so would require a search of a number of document storage areas to ensure any report held be retrieved (for application of cost limit see, 'Application of Cost Exemption', below).

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However, we feel that the majority of the information held will be contained in the report, 'Lantern Accuracy Analysis Engineering Report'. As the cost limit exemption is applicable to the whole of this request, the NPIA are not obliged to provide any of the information requested. However, please find attached response to questions 2,3 and 4. which is being provided entirely outside the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In answer to questions 1, and 5 of your request, the NPIA does not hold the information requested. The closure date for the Lantern project was 31st July 2011 and a final report on the project has yet to be written. In regards to the document requested in question 5, the change control notice, that would have resulted in the creation of this report, was never actioned and therefore no report produced.

In answer to question 2, 3, 4 and 6 please see email attachments. Please note that some of the content, e.g., the names of individuals and other information we would consider exempt if considered under the Act, has been redacted from these documents.

Application of Cost Exemption

To provide any report held by the NPIA on Fingerprint False Match Rate (FMR) and False Non-Match Rate (FNMR) achieved in the field during the LANTERN trial, I would require the search of a number of document storage areas, including: archive, shared drives, personal folders. An electronic search of the storage areas would not be sufficiently accurate to find any/all information relevant to your request. There are an estimated 5000 documents that would need to be reviewed and it is estimated that analysis of each document would take a minimum of one minute per item, although the retrieval of some records may take longer, which would increase the overall time taken. Taking the lower estimate, of one minute document, this would constitute approximately 83 hours work, equating to a cost of £2075 which is well in excess of the £450 cost limit specified in the Fees Regulations for FOI requests.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the cost of complying exceeds a cost limit, known as the 'appropriate limit', which is specified in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For public authorities such as the NPIA, this cost limit has been set at £450. These costs are limited to those that an authority reasonably expects to incur in:

- determining whether it holds the information requested,
- locating the information or documents containing the information,
- retrieving such information or documents, and
- extracting the information from the document containing it.

The Regulations also specify that costs which are attributable to the time spent by persons undertaking any of the activities mentioned above are to be calculated at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending a maximum of 18 hours (2½ working days) dealing with a request.

Your right to complain

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will investigate the matter and endeavour to reply within 20 working days. You should write to:

Anne Taylor
Head of Secretariat and Policing Portfolio Unit

C/O FOI Team
National Policing Improvement Agency
10th Floor (East),
New King's Beam House,
22 Upper Ground,
London,
SE1 9QY
E-mail: NPIAFOI.InternalReviews@npia.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by the NPIA. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Further information about the NPIA is routinely published on our website at www.npia.police.uk or through our publication scheme. If you require any further assistance in connection with this request please contact us at our address above.

Yours sincerely,

Andy Woodgate
Knowledge and Information Management Services Adviser
National Policing Improvement Agency