

## Thames Valley Police Chief Constable John Campbell QPM

Headquarters
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Oxfordshire
OX5 2NX

Mr Tom Stockholm

Telephone: 101

Direct dial: 01865 542051

Email: publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Our ref:

HQ/PA/003115/19

Your ref:

09 August 2019

Dear Mr Stockholm,

I write in response to the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, submitted on 10 July 2019. Thames Valley Police has now considered this request, which for clarity, has been repeated below:

#### Request

I would like to request the following information in regards to the estate of your organisation.

- 1. The Location (incl. Full address & Postcode) of all buildings occupied by your organisation.
- The tenure (i.e. Leasehold or Freehold) of all building occupied by your organisation.
- 3. Whether any of these buildings are subject to PFI Agreements.
- 4. The use (i.e. Police Station/Neighbourhood Base/Offices/Disused) of all buildings occupied by your organisations.
- 5. The identity of any locations that are earmarked for future disposal.
- 6. The date at which any future disposals are due to take place.
- 7. Whether any of these locations will be replaced after disposal.
- 8. If a replacement location is intended, what form will this take (i.e. Relocation/Co-Location)

#### Response

Thames Valley Police can confirm that it holds this information, and is able to provide the attached data sheet. Please note that this list excludes masts, covert/sensitive sites and houses, by virtue of the following exemption of the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

### Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Please see below for further explanation.

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#### Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified, prejudice based exemption.

Under Section 31(1)(a)(b) of the Act, Public Authorities are able to withhold information where its release would, or would be likely to, have an adverse effect upon law enforcement, the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Section 31 requires us to evidence the harm in disclosure and to conduct a public interest test. This is outlined below;

#### Harm

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 Thames Valley Polices' ability to fulfil its core function of law enforcement or could endanger the health and safety of individuals, or our officers.

#### **Factors for Disclosure**

Thames Valley Police acknowledges a general public interest in being open and transparent about how it conducts its duties in protecting the communities it serves. This leads to increased trust and cooperation and also a better informed public, more able to defend against the threats posed by offender and criminal activites. This may go some way to promoting awareness and accountability in this area of policing and offending, and where expenditure of public funds is accountable.

#### **Factors for Non-Disclosure**

The current or future law enforcement role of the police service may be compromised by the release of information, i.e. where the apprehension and/or prosecution of offenders or the administration of justice, may be hindered as a result of the release of information.

#### **Balance Test**

On balance, if disclosed, there would be the likelihood that current and future law enforcement undertaken would be compromised. It cannot be justified that the public's interest would be served in releasing this information, if these enforcement requirements were to be compromised in any way.

After weighing up the competing interests, I have determined that the disclosure of the information would not be in the public interest. I consider that the benefit that would result from the information being disclosed, does not outweigh disclosing this information.

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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; <a href="mailto:publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk">publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk</a>.

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

Ruth Anderson
Public Access
Joint Information Management Unit