



**Kent  
Police**



Mr John Doe  
[request-721110-132625b1@whatdotheyknow.com](#)

Direct Line: 01622 652610  
E-mail: [freedomofinformation@kent.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@kent.police.uk)

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
FOI Ref: 21/01/0108

Dear Mr Doe,

**Freedom of Information Request 21/01/0108**

I write in response to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received on **24<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

*With the creation of inland borders and lorry parks in the Kent county, what measures will Kent Police be taking to mitigate public sex or 'dogging' in the region as a result of road hauliers spending increased periods of time in Kent due to the United Kingdom leaving the European Union.*

Kent Police and its' partners have considered a number of potential risks within their threat and risk assessments relating to the operation at the Kent border. The risk of offences around lorry parks and the need to safeguard vulnerable persons are part of the considerations resulting in mitigations being put in place with Kent Police's tactical planning.

Unfortunately, the specific measures and tactics that have resulted from the threat and risk assessments mentioned above, are exempt from disclosure by virtue of exemption at s.31(1)(a)(b) Freedom of Information Act 2000, which relates to Law Enforcement.

*Evidence of Harm*

As you will be aware, disclosure under FOIA is considered a release to the public at large. Whilst not questioning the motives of an applicant, releasing the requested information has the potential to reveal specific tactics and methods utilised by Police Officers. The measures being implemented within Kent as a result of the transition period, are an ongoing and developing operation. Disclosure of Kent Police's tactical plans into the public domain, could advantage organised criminal groups or others with criminal or anti-social intent, as well as undermine efforts to maintain law and order and safeguard vulnerable persons. This by extension could impact negatively on police investigations by disclosing tactics used to gather evidence in ascertaining whether an individual should or should not be charged with an offence. The overall effect of this disclosure would likely hinder law enforcement capabilities to effectively detect and prevent crime.

*Factors Favouring Disclosure under FOIA*

Disclosure of the requested information would contribute to openness and transparency. It would also hold Kent Police to account regarding the procedures they provide and ensure the measures and tactics implemented are sufficient for officers to carry out their duties effectively and lawfully.

*Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure under FOIA*

By disclosing the information, law enforcement tactics would be compromised which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension of offenders. It is likely that disclosure would result in more crime being committed since those intent on causing harm would have knowledge of specific tactics and methods used by officers. Consequently, criminal behaviour may be altered due to such a disclosure. This would be likely to place members of the public at risk of harm.

*Balance Test*

Public safety and confidence are of the highest importance, and as the disclosure of the requested information would likely result in compromising effective law enforcement and by extension public safety. Any disclosure which would undermine police strategies and create further risk of crime cannot be considered in the public interest. Having considered the arguments above I find in this case the public interest lies in favour of non-disclosure of the information requested.

Thank you for your interest in Kent Police. If you have any queries about your request or the application of the Freedom of Information Act generally, please contact this office quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

**Adam Staden**

**Public Disclosure Officer**

## **Your right to appeal**

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 40 working days from the date the response is issued to request that Kent Police carry out an internal review.

If your request for a review concerns the decision to apply an exemption, it would assist if you would outline why you believe the exemption does not apply.

Kent Police will acknowledge receipt of any request for a review and aim to respond as soon as practicable, in most cases within 20 working days of receipt. If the review will not be completed in this timescale, you will be informed.

You may lodge your request for a review in writing:

Our email address is: [freedomofinformation@kent.police.uk](mailto:freedomofinformation@kent.police.uk)

Our postal address is:

Freedom of Information  
Coldharbour,  
London Road,  
Aylesford,  
Kent,  
ME20 7SL

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right under section 50 of the Act to appeal directly to the Information Commissioner who would normally expect you to have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by Kent Police.

For information on how to appeal to the Information Commissioner please visit the website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
0303 123 1113