



Thames Valley Police
Chief Constable Francis Habgood QPM

Headquarters
Oxford Road
Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 2NX

Mr Richard Hall

Telephone: 101
Direct dial: 01865 542051
Email: publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Our ref: HQ/PA/000279/18

9th February 2018

Dear Richard Hall,

I write in response to the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted on 23rd January 2018. Thames Valley Police has now considered this request, which for clarity, has been repeated below:

<u>Request</u>	<u>Response</u>
Can you let me know the top five postcodes within the RG14 area that have had the most police call outs over the last 12 months please?	<p>Thames Valley Police can confirm that it holds this information. However, the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply to your request, by virtue of the following exemptions:</p> <p>Section 40(5)(a)(i) Personal Information. Disclosure of a full postcode which could relate to a minimal number of properties would breach the first principle of the Data Protection Act 1998. To disclose this information could publically reveal information about an individual or individuals. Section 40 does not require evidence of harm or a public interest test to be considered.</p> <p>Section 31(1)(a)(b): Law enforcement Please see below for further explanation</p>



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	Section 16:- Further advice & assistance You may wish to visit https://www.police.uk which provides local crime information and statistics.
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Section 31: Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a prejudice-based qualified exemption.

Harm

Reduced cooperation between police and local residents and their trust in the force will lead to a reduction of reported crime and therefore an increase in both crime and the numbers of victims of crime.

Factors in favour of disclosure

Thames Valley Police acknowledges a general public interest in being open and transparent. Disclosure of the information will better inform the public of crime statistics in a particular area.

Factors against disclosure

Thames Valley Police works closely with local communities in both preventing crime and offering support and reassurance to residents. This relationship could be significantly damaged by releasing 'league tables' of specific postcodes, leading to reduced confidence and a negative portrayal of an area.

The number of complaints alone does not necessarily reflect the true picture of an area. For example, where a community is reporting all incidents and working with police to deal with them will have higher recorded figures than an area where criminal activity is tolerated, or simply ignored. Therefore, releasing simple statistics of numbers will not reward positive actions and may lead to reduced reporting and therefore an increase in actual levels of crime and more victims of crimes.

Balance test

Any disclosure that works against Thames Valley Police's relationship with a local community for the purposes of preventing or reducing crime and building trust is clearly not in the public interest. The case for disclosure is not made out.

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.



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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

Claire Baldwin
Public Access
Joint Information Management Unit