



Thames Valley Police
Chief Constable Francis Habgood QPM

Headquarters
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Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 2NX

Alex Morris

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

Our ref: HQ/PA/000590/19

Your ref:

20 February 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in response to the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted on 13 February 2019. Thames Valley Police has now considered this request, which for clarity, has been repeated below:

<u>Request</u>	<u>Response</u>
<p>Dear Thames Valley Police,</p> <p>Please can you provide the annual count for your Constabulary of arrests, charges, number of assailants released on bail or released without charge, and successful and non-successful prosecutions (those that went to Court but were dismissed) under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 from its introduction in 2003 to date - specifically with reference to social media communications, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, etc.</p>	<p>This request is being refused under Section 12(1) of the FOIA.</p> <p>Section 12 of the FOIA allows that public authorities do not have to comply with section 1(1) of the Act if the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this request.</p> <p>This information is not held in an easily retrievable format. Thames Valley Police's custody and crime recording systems do not have classification for 'social media involved'. We would therefore have to manually review every case involving an arrest where the reason for arrest was given as an offence under the section of the act to determine what information is held. Prosecution outcomes are also not held on these systems as a matter of course and so</p>



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	<p>any cases that progressed to court would have to be manually cross-referenced between systems to determine these court outcomes. Our current crime and custody recording systems were introduced in 2012 and so information for arrests prior to this time will involve searching through paper records of all arrests/cases prior to this date to determine what information is held. This will exceed the appropriate 18 hour time and £450 cost limit.</p> <p>Section 16:- Further advice & assistance The number of all arrests and charges made under the appropriate offences since our current recording system(s) was/were introduced relating to this section of the Act may be available within the time cost limit where no breakdown to social media involvement is requested.</p>
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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; publicaccess@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

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

Darren Humphries
Public Access
Joint Information Management Unit