



Information Rights Unit
PO Box 313
Sidcup
DA15 0HH

Email: foi@met.police.uk

www.met.police.uk

Your ref:
Our ref: 01/FOI/21/021881

11/11/2021

Dear Ms Oldham

Freedom of Information Request Reference No: 01/FOI/21/021881

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on 08/11/2021. I note you seek access to the following information:

Regarding an email quoted below between a member of the public and hounslow council in respect of case reference : 1145/21JAN21

" The dogs were seized in relation to the alleged offences relating to Section 5 of the Animal Welfare Act and taken into the care of Animal Protection Services who are investigating that alleged offence. "

"The dogs were seized by the Metropolitan Police and transferred into the care of Animal Protection Services. "

"The dogs never physically moved into our kennels at Hounslow, and were transported to an offsite facility arranged by Animal Protection Services. I'm afraid I would not be able to give you the contact details for them, as I don't in fact know their address."

"I am afraid I would not be of much help therefore, the enquiry has to go to Animal Protection Services. We had worked with them as we would have done with other outside organisations such as the RSPCA etc, but have no links or affiliations to them, so any animals in there care are entirely separate to our own."

It is noted that after 9 months of you investigating all charges have been dropped.

We understand the Met police provided the court warrant that licensed the

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seizure of these dogs. Was this on the advice and evidence provided by the charity Animal Protection Services(APS)?

What due diligence activities did the police perform regarding APS in order to confirm that APS were a suitable organisation to be contracted to remove the dogs (property) from the premises? If MPS did no due diligence, why not?

Did the police qualify any evidence provided by doing their own investigation? if not why not?

The above email states APS did the investigation not the police. Why did APS do the investigation?

What due diligence did the Met. police carry out to decide that APS had the relevant experience and skillset and qualifications to do those investigations on the polices behalf?

Does the met. police have a contract with the charity APS?

Why did the Met police choose not use the much more experienced RSPCA to seize these animals?

Why did the police allow the dogs (property) to be seized and removed by an organisation not recognised as being competent to do this ?

What checks were carried out to ensure the premises where the dogs were removed to were suitable?

If APS were not contracted by the police to remove the dogs (property) then why did the police and Hounslow council encourage and support this theft ?

Why did the police allow the dogs (property) to be removed by this org and why have the police not ordered the release and return of the dogs (property) to their legal owner?

Why are the police now permitting extortion and blackmail by APS who are demanding fees from the legal owner for the upkeep of dogs seized during this bogus operation.

The owners of these dogs had full paperwork to cover all aspects of ownership INCLUDING the section 5 offences that the police alleged prior to the seizure of their dogs.

Why did the police not check this paperwork prior to going to court for the warrant? Why did they not check the documentation before supporting APS to seize the dogs?

Your request will now be considered in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). We aim to provide a response within the statutory timescale of 20 working days as defined by the Act. The deadline date for your request is 06/12/2021

During the first part of the national lockdown last year our staff were prevented access to our offices to conduct essential work that could not be carried out remotely, this caused a large amount of backlog and even though lockdown restrictions have

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eased in more recent times we are still affected by the various restrictions that were in place during the majority of 2020. We do now have a limited number of staff able to attend our offices and it will take time for us to resume our normal service.

Please be reassured that the vast majority of work is carried out unhindered, but due to current circumstances some delays may be unavoidable. The MPS take your rights under data protection regulations very seriously and every effort will be made to ensure a response is provided within statutory deadlines. We apologise for any inconvenience and will endeavour to process your request as quickly as is practicable.

If you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please contact us at foi@met.police.uk, quoting the reference number above. Should your enquiry relate to the logging or allocations process we will be able to assist you directly and where your enquiry relates to other matters (such as the status of the request) we will be able to pass on a message and/or advise you of the relevant contact details.

Yours sincerely

Data Office Triage Team

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to require the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome to discuss the response with the case officer who dealt with your request.

Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the MPS made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can lodge a complaint with the MPS to have the decision reviewed.

Complaints should be made in writing, within forty (40) working days from the date of the refusal notice, and addressed to:

FOI Complaint
Information Rights Unit
PO Box 313
Sidcup
DA15 0HH
foi@met.police.uk

In all possible circumstances the MPS will aim to respond to your complaint within 20 working days.

The Information Commissioner

After lodging a complaint with the MPS if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk. Alternatively, write to or phone:

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