

Mr M Roulston

request-210322-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.xxx

2 July 2014

Reference: 051-2014R/045-2014

Dear Mr Roulston

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

REQUEST DETAILS

Please find below our response to your correspondence received on 18 June 2014, in which you request a review in respect of the response to your Freedom of Information Request of 5 June 2014.

Your request for review stated:

I am writing to request an internal review of Scottish Police Authority's handling of my FOI request 'Senior officer selection equivalent (or potential equivalent) courses'.

The response does not actually answer my request as follow

(1) I do not see how discussions about qualifications can be considered to be personal details if personal details are redacted. You do not seem to have considered this option in your response but adopt the approach that nothing can be disclosed because there are some personal data somewhere within it. If this interpretation you could never get minutes of any meeting which would make them rather pointless?

I am also surprised that you were not included in the "urgent" email exchanges taking place between HMICS and the College of Policing in December 2012 which was around the time of the selection process referred to in (2) of your response?

(2) I did not use the word "permanent" which you have introduced in your response. This is a significant word in the police world and I understand that there have been temporary appointments since 2012.

(3) You limit your response to AC rank and only produce a copy of the pay scale. I referred to officers (i.e CC/DCC/ACC) who are shown in the published accounts of their home forces as joining PSoS prior to 1/4/13.

I can name them if you wish but I had rather hoped you would now who you appointed and when they took up the post.

Their actual salaries etc are published in great detail for the period they served in those home forces prior to joining PSoS.

I would like the same details from their transfer to PSoS until the end of that financial year.

I do not want their payscales!

RESPONSE

The Scottish Police Authority (SPA) has considered your request for review and on this occasion has upheld the original decision that information is either already in the public domain or not held by the SPA. However, SPA accepts that it failed to cite the appropriate exemptions required by the Freedom of Information legislation.

(1) For clarity, I can confirm that the only information that SPA holds about discussions concerning equivalent courses for Senior Police Officer recruitment is as per our response of 5 June 2014, i.e the extract from the sift report which was released in respect of a previous request and can be found on the 'whatdotheyknow' website. The document is not provided in full since a) it contains personal data, exempt in terms of Section 38 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and b) it contains information not relevant to the request.

(2) The Scottish Police Authority introduced the word 'permanent' as there is no requirement for temporary appointments to have what you refer to as SCC/PNAC accreditation. Thus, it would only be relevant for permanent appointments.

(3) The Scottish Police Authority does not hold information on specific salaries for the posts and period you refer to. This therefore represents a notice in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 – information not held. In terms of our duty to assist, I would advise that this information may be held by the Police Service of Scotland.

I trust you will find this information to be in order, however, if you are not satisfied with the way in which your request for review has been dealt with you have six months within which you may appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner;

Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Yours sincerely

L Davie
Information Management