



Richard De Vere
request-632157-71fdea4e@whatdotheyknow.com
or

Michela Holmes
Information Access Team
Information Management Services
Bishopsgate Police Station
182 Bishopsgate
London
EC2M 4NP

foi@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk

Direct line
020 7601 2287

Your ref:
Our ref:
IR2020/00235

3rd March 2020

Dear Richard De Vere,

Request for Information Internal Review Reference No: IR2020/00235

I write in connection with your request dated 10th February for an internal review in relation to your FoIA request (ref: FOI2020/00109). The request was as follows:

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I am writing to request an internal review of City of London Police's handling of my FOI request 'Statistics relating to SIM Swap Fraud'.

It is simply unacceptable that a police force has failed to comply with the law.

DECISION

The City of London Police Service (COLP) has completed its review and determined that procedural errors were made in relation to your request.

REASON FOR DECISION

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 creates a statutory right of access to information held by public authorities. A public authority in receipt of a request must:

- confirm whether they hold the requested information (Section

- 1(1)(a)); and if so,
- communicate it to the applicant (Section 1(1)(b)).

Furthermore, the Freedom of Information Act is designed to place information into the public domain. Once access to information is granted to one person under the Act, it is then considered to be public information and must be communicated to any individual upon request. In accordance with this principle, the COLP operates an applicant-blind and motive-blind approach to FoIA requests and routinely publishes information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act on the COLP Internet site

<https://colp.disclosurelog.co.uk/> .

The right of access to information is subject to a number of exemptions that are designed to enable public authorities to withhold information that is not suitable for release. The Act also specifies a number of requirements for public authorities to adhere to when responding to requests for information.

Section 10 (Time for compliance with request)

Section 10(1) of the Act states:

'Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a public authority must comply with section 1(1) promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt.'

In the circumstances of your case, neither the information requested nor a refusal notice was provided to you within 20 working days. Therefore, the COLP have not complied with the requirements of section 10 of the Act.

COLP have had several members of the team who process FOI requests on long term absence. This has caused a backlog of requests. COLP have counteracted this by training staff from other areas of the business to support the team and this is the reason for the delay.

With this in mind, I have given your request to the Senior Information Access Officer and I have been advised that a response has been sent today.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise on behalf of the COLP for any inconvenience caused by the time taken to respond to your Freedom of Information Act request.

You have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint.

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

Thank you for your interest in the City of London Police.

Yours sincerely

Michela Holmes