



**Derbyshire Constabulary**

Mr Dave Jones

Telephone: 101  
Direct Line: 0300 122 8752  
Ask For: Freedom of Information  
Our Ref: 001031/14  
Your Ref: Stores Inventory  
Date: 29 April 2014

Dear Mr Jones

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST - REFERENCE NO: 001031/14**

I write in connection with your request for information which was received by Derbyshire Constabulary on 22/04/2014. I note you seek access to the following information:

*Please supply details of all currently recorded items held in the police 'stores' and the number of items held.*

*eg: Telescopic Baton (26") x14 and so on.*

**Result of Searches**

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Derbyshire Constabulary to locate any relevant information. The searches located some information relevant to your request.

**Decision**

On this occasion I am unable to provide you with the information you requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as I have applied Section 12 of the Act - 'Excess Fees'; the rationale for which is shown below.

This letter therefore represents our formal refusal to supply the information you requested.

**Reason(s)**

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that Section 1(1) (General Right of Access to Information) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if "the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit."

Pre December 2013 the Constabulary held details of all 'items' held within its central store (uniform etc) within its finance system - 'stock items'. However, in order to improve efficiency the Constabulary made a decision and 'de-stocked' such items from the system; the consequence being that we do not now formally hold any details that would be shown in our financial accounts.

As a consequence the only way to obtain the details requested would be for staff to conduct a manual audit. From speaking to staff in that area it is estimated that (based on a previous audit) this would require in excess of 78 hours to complete; a figure well above the nationally agreed threshold.

The costs limit is set by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. For non central government public authorities such as the Derbyshire Constabulary the appropriate limit is £450 (which can be calculated as 18 hours of work where an hour is charged at a standard national rate of £25). This means that, in effect, there is a time limit of 18 hours.

The public authority's estimate of the cost of compliance should be "*sensible, realistic and supported by cogent evidence*" - Information Tribunal: *Randall v Information Commissioner and Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency* (EA/2006/0004)

Regulation 4(3) provides that the following factors can be taken into account when formulating a cost estimate:

- (a) Determining whether it holds the information,
- (b) Locating the information, or a document which may contain the information,
- (c) Retrieving the information, or a document which may contain the information, and
- (d) Extracting the information from a document containing it.

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 a public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is relying on a claim that section 12 or section 14 applies must, within the time for complying with section 1(1), give the applicant a notice stating that fact.

Should you be able to substantially amend your request it may be possible to provide some information within the fees limit. However, given the above position and in line with my responsibilities under Section 16 of the Act I am at this time unable to offer any alternative(s). Additionally I need to add that it is our policy to decline the opportunity to undertake such retrieval at cost payment as the apparent result appears to be disproportionate to the effort of our resources to achieve it.

For the sake of completeness I should also point out that as the whole request exceeds the fees limit we are not obliged to indicate further where either exemptions or a "neither confirm nor deny" response may have been relevant to any part of your request.

I am sorry that on this occasion we can not provide the information that you requested but I hope you understand that there is a finite limit to the amount and scope of retrievable information we record in terms of effective resource use.

### **Right to Request a Review (Complaint)**

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Derbyshire Constabulary.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer, on the above telephone number quoting the reference number in the header.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Lea  
Freedom of Information Officer

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