



BY EMAIL ONLY

Mr P Ponting

Please ask for: Steve Freeman
Telephone: 01772.533587
Email: commissioner@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk
Our Ref: PCC/GOV/SF
Date: 17th October 2018

Dear Mr Ponting,

Thank you for your email dated 19th September 2018, in which you request an internal review of the response you have received for a Freedom of Information request you made in an email dated 21st August 2018.

I have been asked by the Director of the Office (Mrs Angela Harrison) to investigate the issues you have set out in your email and can provide the following response.

You received an e-mail from Jane Pearson on 19th September 2018 that stated the following:

I can confirm that the Police and Crime Commissioner does not hold any regulations or information on how he can use public money for donations. Nor does he, or the Office, hold any information relating to donations that have been made with public money with/without authority.

The reason being is that the Police and Crime Commissioner has not used public money for donations.

I appreciate that the press release infers that the motorbike was donated to the Blood Bike Charity. However, this was not the case.

Through the Commissioner's Scheme of Governance approved on the 22 November 2012, the Chief Constable is permitted to dispose of assets other than land, up to the values set out in Financial Regulations.

It is my understanding that Lancashire Constabulary agreed to sell redundant bikes to the Blood Bike Charity as it is an organisation which they are closely aligned to and fits well with the Constabulary's purpose.

The bikes were not donated, but were sold on a basis which reflected Value for Money on an assessment of what they might attract at auction. This decision was taken by the Constabulary's Director of Resources under delegated authority from the Chief Constable.

In your e-mail you also ask two further questions in the course of business.

- 1. Who provides authority for such donations out of public funds.*

No one has provided authority for such donations out of public funds.

- 2. Please provide a list of all donations via your office since 2010*



There have been no donations via the OPCC. For clarity, this response covers the period November 2012 to present. Prior to November 2012, the responsibility rested with the Lancashire Police Authority.

I have reviewed the evidence available at the time of writing the response dated 19th September 2018, and I am satisfied that it reflects the information made available by Lancashire Constabulary at that time.

As a result of my investigation into this transaction I have, however, been provided with additional information by Lancashire Constabulary that was not made available before the response to you and can provide the following update to the position reported to you previously.

In November 2013, motorcycle registration PN07 ECJ, was donated to the Blood Bikes charity following a decision taken under delegated powers by the Head of Business Support at Lancashire Constabulary.

For transparency, I can also confirm that motorcycle registration PN07 ECY, was sold to Blood Bikes in September 2014 for £2,750 and motorcycle, registration PN09 GKP, sold for £2,000 to Blood Bikes in November 2015. The decisions to make these sales were taken under delegated powers by officers at Lancashire Constabulary.

For the absence of doubt, in response to your original Freedom of Information request concerning the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the response remains correct, the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner has not made any donations to charity using public funds.

It is clear however, that Lancashire Constabulary, under delegated powers and therefore acting in accordance with financial regulations, has made a donation to the Blood Bikes charity in November 2013.

Unfortunately, this information was only made available to this Office after the response was sent on 19th September 2018, and I therefore apologise for the confusion this causes.

In your email dated 19th September 2018, you asked "Why other charities are not considered under this scheme?"

There is no specific scheme to consider requests made by any organisation for support from either the PCC or from Lancashire Constabulary and any approach for such support is considered on a case by case basis.

If you are still not satisfied with the decision after this review, you may complain to:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF



I hope this response is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Freeman
Chief Finance Officer
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner