



Our Ref: 002580/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 13 August 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 03/08/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

Further to the UK the Freedom of Information Act 2000, could you please provide the following information:

- 1. Budgets/funding or any other resources directly allocated by the Authority towards anti-trafficking activities and/or activities to combat 'modern slavery' in 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years (i.e. dedicated projects, anti-trafficking operations, members of staff, information campaigns etc.) and what these activities are.*
- 2. If available, a copy of the organisational strategy or any other document which sets out what actions are to be taken by the Authority to combat trafficking in human beings and/or 'modern slavery' as mandated by the UK Modern Slavery Act (2015).*

I look forward to hearing from you within the 20-working day statutory time period.

I would appreciate if you could provide your response by email,

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am unable to supply the full information you have requested.

I can confirm that we cannot provide the information with regards to budgets and funding. As anti-trafficking and anti-modern day slavery are dealt with by a specific team, but are funded under everyday policing budgets, therefore not separated out.

Leicestershire Police Officers and staff will always follow the national guidance contained within the Authorised Professional Practice from the College of Policing. Any further detail is exempt under Section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 31 is a prejudice based, qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Public Interest Test

The public interest is not what interests the public, but what will be of greater good if released to the community as a whole. It is not in the public interest to disclose information that may compromise Leicestershire Police's ability to fulfil its core functions. Detailed information is rarely disclosed so that the tactics, resources and intelligence used by Leicestershire Police do not become public knowledge thereby rendering them ineffective.

Section 31 – Evidence of Harm

Under the Act, we cannot, and do not request the motives of any application for information. We have no doubt that the vast majority of requests made under the Act are legitimate.

However, in disclosing information to one applicant, we are expressing a willingness to provide it to anyone in the world. This means that a disclosure to a genuinely interested and concerned person automatically opens it up for a similar disclosure, including those who would use the information to gain an advantage over the police.

In considering whether or not this information should be disclosed, consideration has been given to the potential harm that could be caused by disclosure.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in disclosure of the requested information as it would allow the public to discuss the conduct of the investigation and would therefore raise the Force's accountability. It would also aid transparency and allow any failings to be discussed in the public domain.

Disclosure would also enable the public to see how public funds are spent during the course of these types of investigation and would demonstrate the effective partnership work the Force undertakes with external agencies such as the Crown Prosecution Service.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring non - disclosure

I am of the opinion that it is not in the public interest to disclose full policies and procedures, information that if disclosed, would reveal police tactics and evidence gathering techniques along with other information which is vital to Law Enforcement.

If this information were released into the public domain, it would allow those like minded to commit crime to be aware as to how this type of investigation is conducted. It would therefore give them an added advantage should they wish to impede a future investigation and would significantly weaken our law enforcement capabilities.

Conclusion

I believe that on balance it is **not** in the public interest to release information which you have requested on this occasion for the reasons stated above. I appreciate that this is not the decision you had hoped for but I must consider the wider position under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which I feel necessitates the need to refuse your request under this legislation.

Leicestershire Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information with regard to an exempt body as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information Supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

Confirming or denying the existence of whether any other information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out within Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information applied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.

In addition, there is material already in the public domain which may interest you:

<http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/1329/independent-anti-slavery-commissioners-strategic-plan-19-21-screen-readable.pdf>
<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>
<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/modern-slavery/>
<https://www.npcc.police.uk/Publication/2019/Modern%20Slavery%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Freedom of Information Officer

Leicestershire Police

Leicestershire Police in complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law.

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