



Our Ref: 002880/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 08 September 2020

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 28/08/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act.

Please provide a copy of all problem profile assessments produced or commissioned by your police force related to child sexual exploitation in your force area from January 1st 2010 to date.

I accept some limited exemptions may well be required under section 31 in relation to the processing of this request. However, as you will be aware, section 31 cannot be used in a blanket manner, and all information that does not explicitly trigger section 31 must be released.

There is a very strong public interest in the release of most of this information, to ensure the public is fully aware of risks in their police area. Outside of specifics that would be subject to section 40 redactions anyway, it is unlikely that much of this information would be useful to potential perpetrators.

As such, please ensure each redaction is properly justified in line with the act, after a full and considered public interest test.

Please send me this information by e-mail to Georgegreenwood1993@gmail.com, in a machine readable format such as .csv or .xlsx where appropriate.

If you have any queries about this request please contact me on 07772678699.

If you are encountering practical difficulties complying with this request, please contact me so that we can discuss the matter and if necessary I can modify the request.

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 the information asked for is as follows: -

There has only been 1 problem profile covering Child Sexual Abuse (CSE) Missing from Home and Paedophile Online Investigation Team (Polit) during the time specified.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Leicestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption(s) applicable relate to your request are as follows:

- Section 23 – Information supplied by, or concerning, certain security bodies
- Section 31 – Law Enforcement

These exemptions are qualified and require us to carry out a harm and public interest balancing test before they can be relied upon.

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.

Many policing tactics utilised by the Police today, have been in use for an undetermined length of time due to their proven ability to assist in the prevention and detection of crime. To disclose police tactics would render these methods less effective ultimately undermining policing and resulting in new tactics needing to be developed and employed which may take a considerable amount of time. An increase in crime would be the definitive result. These profiles can be complex and contain so much information, which if released would have a detrimental effect to Law Enforcement.

Effective policing requires the active participation of a wide number of agencies in order for it to be successful. As a result, policing activities/tactics are vitally important and should be protected with the confidence that it will be treated confidentially. If a disclosure was made under the Freedom of Information Act that left the Force susceptible, it would mean information may severely impact on the process of law enforcement.

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 how the Police processes and tactics are used 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 daily Policing Operations.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring non - disclosure

I am of the opinion that it is not in the public interest to disclose detailed information that relates to police tactics as it would render these methods less effective ultimately undermining policing.

The information requested contains a wealth of information that if disclosed, would reveal police protection and security along with other information which is vital to Law Enforcement.

It would therefore give those criminally minded 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.

In addition, Your request will also require a partial Neither Confirm Nor Deny stance by virtue of:

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

The 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.

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.

Yours sincerely

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.

Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to The Information Manager, Leicestershire Police Headquarters, St. Johns, Enderby, Leicester LE19 2BX.

