



Our Ref: 002726/20

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 01 October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 14/08/2020.

I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Please state the number of cases of alleged police corruption that your force has investigated internally or referred to the IOPC between Jan 1st 2016 and August 14th 2020.
Please provide the information in calendar years and broken down month by month in each of those calendar years*
- 2. For each case, please provide the number of police officers involved and list the rank of each officer.*
- 3. Please provide the outcome of each investigation, including the effect on the officer's employment and what disciplinary or prosecutorial action took place. NB: Ongoing cases can be marked as "unresolved" or "ongoing".*
- 4. Please provide details of the alleged misconduct or criminal behaviour involving corruption.*

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: -

Please see attached spreadsheet containing information relating to your request.

Please note that due to our internal recording systems there may be some allegations of corruption which are not included in this due to the being part of a larger investigation. To identify those would invoke section 12.

Further to the above, Leicestershire Police neither confirms nor denies that it holds any other information relevant to this request by virtue of the following exemptions:

- Section 30(3) Investigations
- Section 31(3) Law Enforcement
- Section 40(5) Personal information

Evidence of Harm in complying with Section 1(1)(a) – to confirm or not whether information is or isn't held

Any disclosure under FOI is a release to the public at large. Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, confirming or denying that any other information relating to ongoing investigations, some of which may be covert, would reveal investigative activity surrounding police corruption which. This would highlight to any corrupt officers that their Professional Standards Department are aware of their offending and are trying to prevent and detect crime as well as apprehend officers at the correct time. This awareness would also allow offenders to take steps to avoid apprehension which could include destroying evidence.

Public Interest Considerations

Section 30(3) Investigations

Factors favouring complying with s1(1)(a) confirmation that other information is held

The information requested relates to investigations into police corruption allegations and there is a strong argument for increased transparency in the way misconduct and criminal investigations into police officers are handled.

To confirm or deny whether any other information is or isn't held relating to ongoing covert investigations would improve public debate into this subject area and highlight that allegations of police corruption against police officers are investigated appropriately and robustly.

Factors against complying with Section 1(1)(a)

While it is clear that the overwhelming majority of police officers and staff are committed and professional, and that corruption is in no way endemic in the Police Service, there is a small element whose corrupt actions have a negative effect on public confidence. Although it could be argued that the general public need to know that Leicestershire police are actively investigating these officers, to do so would undermine the whole investigative process.

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement

Factors favouring complying with Section 1(1)(a) confirming that any other information is held

There is information within the public domain relating to the College of Policing Codes of Ethics and Corruption, see below links:

https://whatworks.college.police.uk/Research/Documents/REA_codes_of_ethics.pdf

<https://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Ethics/integrity-and-transparency/Barred-List/Pages/Barred-List.aspx>

This in itself favours confirming other information is held.

Factors against complying with Section 1(1)(a) neither confirming nor denying that information is held

To confirm or not whether any other information is or isn't held would hinder the prevention and detection of crime as well as undermine the partnership approach to investigations and law enforcement. An example of such as partnership would be with the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

By confirming or denying whether any other information is or isn't held in respect to this request could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder Leicestershire Police's ability to prevent and detect crimes which would not be in the public interest. A fear of crime will be realised as offenders identify vulnerable areas to target and exploit.

Balancing Test

As much as there is a public interest in knowing that (force name) is appropriate and balanced when delivering law enforcement, there is, in this case, an overriding factor that to reveal whether or not any other information is or isn't held in relation to ongoing investigations, some of which may be covert, would not be in the public interest. It is our opinion that for the issues highlighted above the balancing test for confirming or denying that any other information is held, is not made out.

No inference can be taken from this refusal that information does or does not exist.

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

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