



Our Ref: 000454/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 05 March 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 08/02/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. The name of Open custody suites within your force area*
- 2. Direct dial number (non 101) for above said custody suite's custody desk*
- 3. Post code and full address of above custody suite*

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: -

Leicestershire Police currently have 2 permanently active Custody Suites:

Euston Street Custody
Euston Street
Leicester
LE2 7SZ

Keyham Lane Custody
Colin Grundy Drive
Leicester
LE5 1FY

Any further information is considered exempt by virtue of Section 31.

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 31 – Law Enforcement

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.

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.

Effective policing requires the active participation of a wide number of agencies in order for it to be successful. As a result, direct dials are required to effectively carry out the processes and work associated with detention of offenders. This is crucial to effective offender processing. To release this information into the public domain would therefore clearly impact on our law enforcement capabilities with regards to direct and effective access to the Custody Suites

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.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring disclosure

There is a public interest in disclosure of the requested information as it would allow the public to contact directly custody suites if they felt necessary, this would aid transparency and allow open access to the public.

Section 31 – Considerations favouring non - disclosure

I am of the opinion that it is not in the public interest to disclose direct dial telephone numbers on this occasion. These phone numbers are extension set up for internal and professional partner working.

To disclose these direct dials would allow those minded to cause communications or access issues or to obstruct Leicestershire Police in the process of detentions the ability to cause communication issue. This would directly impact our Law Enforcement capabilities.

Conclusion

I believe that on balance it is **not** in the public interest to release information which relating to direct dials 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 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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