

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 0149/09

In reply to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received 12/03/09.

Request

Please could you provide me with copies of all replies you have issued to other FoI requestors/or replies you are currently working on for FoI requestors in relation to informants costs. This should be limited to requests related to this topic that you logged as having been received between 26-1-09 and the date you receive this e-mail.

NOTE: Since the Information Commissioner's decision re informants' costs in relation to Northumbria Police I am aware that you have received requests from people wanting to know how much you pay informants. I would also like this information but have phrased my question in the terms above so that I am asking you for information you have either already supplied or are already in the process of supplying.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) requires us to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published, and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

We have completed all searches within Cambridgeshire Constabulary and hereby enclose your response.

Response

Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested due to exemptions provided by the Act.

In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the FOI Act I can confirm that Cambridgeshire Constabulary do hold information about previous requests regarding informant costs. All responses to FOI requests are now published on our disclosure log, the link for which is provided below.

<http://www.cambs-police.co.uk/about/foi/disclosure.asp>

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Cambridgeshire 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 exemptions applicable to the information are:

Section 22 - Information Intended for Future Publication

Section 22 relates to information where the authority has made a decision to publish the information but the date for publication has not been reached.

This is a qualified class based exemption and as such I am required to apply a public interest test.

Public Interest Test

In this case the Public Interest Test is not for the disclosure of the data as this decision has already been taken. The test is to determine if the information should be released earlier than planned.

Factors Favouring Early Disclosure

Disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is effectively a release to the world at large. There are no factors favouring early disclosure as requests are still be worked on.

Factors Favouring Non-Early Disclosure

Cambridgeshire Constabulary have taken a decision to increase the number of responses to Freedom of Information requests that it will publish. This decision was taken last year. The work required to do this needs to be planned into the departments workload. Without planning this will divert resources on an ad-hoc basis which is an inefficient use of those resources.

BALANCE TEST

In this case the decision to be made is about the timing of the release of information. The department workload is currently high so the work on the publication of responses needs to be scheduled in relation to the processing of new requests. It is estimated that we will have caught up with published responses by the end of April.