

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 0296/09

In reply to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, received 26/05/09.

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.

Request

Please provide a breakdown for each financial year since 1999-2000 to 2008-2009 of the amount paid by the force to police informants.

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

Response

The use of informants by the police service is well known and is governed by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act, 2000. In relation to your request, Cambridgeshire Police can disclose that £107615.79 is recorded as being spent in 2008/09 by this force on the obtaining of information to combat crime.

2002/2003	£33867.23
2003/2004	£39747.20
2004/2005	£73132.17
2005/2006	£98004.71
2006/2007	£133993.96
2007/2008	£70318.00

The above amounts do not include any payments made to informants where funding may have been supplied by exempt bodies.

This notice acts as a refusal notice under the provisions of S17 (1) of the Freedom of information Act 2000. By virtue of the listed exemption Section 23 Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters.

The police service works in partnership with other agencies in order to combat issues such as terrorism and organised crime. As such, funding may sometimes be provided by bodies listed at section 23(3) In this case, I am unable to confirm or deny whether such funding has been provided to this force within the time periods specified above, by virtue of section 23 (5) of the act.

Section 23(5) is an absolute exemption and does not require the public interest to be considered. This should not be taken as confirmation or denial that Cambridgeshire Police did or did not receive such funding during the time period specified by your request.