



James Hodson
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7th November 2018

Our Ref: FOI2018/05762

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/05762

I write in connection with your request for information received on 11th October. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the freedom of information act:

- How many covert operations and investigations has your professional standards department (or equivalent) launched into the conduct of officers, Specials and PCSOs, from both your own force or other forces from September 2015-September 2018? How many officers were under investigation in each case? Please indicate where the investigation involved officers from a different force.**
- How many resulted in a referral to the Crown Prosecution Service?**
- How many resulted in misconduct proceedings?**
- Please state the outcome of investigations/operations which resulted in further action and which breach (es) of the Standards of Professional Behaviour you were investigating.**
- How many officers from your force were subject to misconduct proceedings during this period in total and what were the outcomes?**

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) 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.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response – Hertfordshire Constabulary's Professional Standards Department works within a collaborated unit with Bedfordshire Police and Cambridgeshire Constabulary. We conduct hundreds of investigations each year which are not recorded by individual forces. Therefore for us to search through every record to establish if the criterion requested is met has exceeded the 18 hour limit. Unfortunately this means it is not possible to suggest a way to refine this request, as even if the date range were reduced it would still require hundreds of records to be manually checked.

We therefore, consider that the cost of complying with your request for information would exceed the appropriate limit of £450 as has been stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees & Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides that –
“Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.”

Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Bedfordshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit) to provide you the applicant with a notice which states that fact.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
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Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.