

13 February 2017

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for information

Your request for information using the Freedom of Information Act legislation has been received in the Police and Crime Commissioner's office in the West Midlands. Your request asked for:

- **The number of complaints about police officers illegally accessing the Police National Computer**
- **The number of complaints about force civilian staff illegally accessing the Police National Computer.**
- **Please detail the outcome of those complaints (numbers of police officers disciplined/prosecuted/suspended/sacked/no action, numbers of police staff disciplined/prosecuted/suspended/sacked/no action)**
- **Please detail for what purposes (where known) those police officers and staff unlawfully accessed the PNC.**

**Please provide the information for calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016 – Jan-Dec.
Please collate the information in an excel spreadsheet and send via e-mail.**

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under your Section 16 obligations, as to how I can refine my request to be included in the scope of the Act.”

You are correct in your assertion that the Police and Crime Commissioner's office does deal with complaints from members of the public; this is of course in addition to other types of correspondence. The database kept indicates whether correspondence concerns a complaint, a request for information, funding, invitations to events, FOI requests and more. It is not possible to see what or whom a complaint concerns without opening each case individually.

Given the scope of your request, this would exceed the cost of compliance limits identified in FOIA Section 12(1). In addition, I would comment that none of the officers who deal with correspondence can recall receiving any complaints of the nature you describe.

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However, in an attempt to assist you, I suggest that the timeframe included in your request is scaled down to 6 months (for whichever year you choose) as opposed to the 3 years quoted. If you would like my officers to proceed with this search please let me know, indicating which 6 months' period you would prefer.

Your attention is drawn to your right to request a re-examination of your case under the Police and Crime Commissioner's review procedure (see attached). Please note that such an appeal must be received within six months of the date of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Jardine
Chief Executive