

Our Ref: 008979/16



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

09 January 2017

Dear

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 07/12/2016.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information regarding the frequency that a range of forensic experts are used in criminal cases, as part of my undergraduate thesis at the University of Wolverhampton.

Please find attached as a word document the information that I am requesting.

Q1. Does your force currently have an in-house forensic specialist team?

Nottinghamshire does not have an in-house forensic specialist team, Nottinghamshire Forensic capacity is part of a 5 Force collaboration called EMSOU-Forensics.



Q2. If yes, how many personnel are part of that team?

No information held. As stated above Forensics is a regional team and therefore we are unable to provide force level personnel numbers.

Q3. What does that team/s specialise in?

Our regional teams specialise in:

Fingerprint Evidence

DNA Evidence

Footwear Evidence

Drugs Analysis

Biometrics

Crime Scene Examination

Q6. What is the average annual cost of in-house forensic experts?

£31000 average salary for computer experts

Q8. What percentage of the annual budget is reserved for outsourcing to forensic experts?

2016/17 Budget

0.74%

Q9. What percentage of the annual budget is reserved for in-house forensic teams?

No information held. Salary & other costs are set under the collaboration as mentioned above.

Q10. Has the amount of money available to your force increased or decreased over the past 10 years?

Decreased

[Please see below regarding the remaining questions.](#)

Q4. How often, in the past 10 years (2005-2015), have these forensic specialties been used?

Q5. What is the average annual cost to outsource to these experts?

Q7. Has the cost of forensic experts increased or decreased over the last 10 years due to the financial climate?

This information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. Records and correspondence relating to the above organisations and topics are not held centrally and could potentially be located across more than one department and both over a number of systems and in paper format. Nottinghamshire Police do not record this information by individual forensic request. Each forensic requirement will be invoiced to the Crime committed which it relates to.

To locate, retrieve and extract any information that may be held in relation to your request would require a manual search of each crime individually that

has had a forensic submission, some of which will have had numerous, and a review of forensic related records and documents held in order to identify any data relevant to your request. There may also be the requirement to cross-reference data with departments and Finance. The work necessary to identify the number of times forensic experts have been used and the cost of such in the last ten years would certainly exceed 18 working hours.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 12(1) of the act being applied

12. – (1) 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.

Should you wish for the Force to continue with your request, a more accurate figure will be provided within a fee's notice. The cost will need to be paid by you, prior to any further investigation. Please advise if you wish to proceed.

Due to the large numbers I am unable to suggest a refinement that would bring the request within the cost threshold.

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

Nottinghamshire Police has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal reviews are intended to be a fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

You can appeal about your request if you:-

- Disagree with the Forces interpretation of your request;
- Believe the Force hold more information than has been disclosed to you;
- Disagree with the application of exemptions;

How do I appeal?

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Information Management
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Notts
NG5 8PP

or alternatively freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and the reasons for your appeal.

Once we have received your request for appeal, your FOI response will be reviewed in full to identify any problems in the disclosure.

The review will be undertaken by someone different from, and preferably senior to, the original decision maker and this should be completed within 20 working days from receipt, in exceptional circumstances it may be extended by a further 20 working days.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner Office at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

E-mail: casework@ico.org.uk