

Our Ref: 009378/16



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

**Tel:** 101  
**Ext** 800 2507  
**Fax:** 0115 967 2896

24 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 22/12/2016.

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:-

**Please provide in relation to the GE2015 Election Expenses investigation:**

- 1) Total man-hours committed for the investigation(s) to date, both pre and post the 1 year extension granted by the courts in summer 2016.**
- 2) A breakdown of time spent a) exploring existing information such as media reports already in the public realm, and b) actively investigating new leads and information.**
- 3) The number of staff tasked to the investigation(s), their rank and experience.**

#### **4) The numbers of meetings and/or phone calls held with the Electoral Commission to discuss progress on Election Expenses investigations throughout 2015 - 2016.**

This information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. Nottinghamshire Police do not quantify Police Officers time spent as part of their normal working shifts. While hours may be logged if for overtime purposes or in relation to specific operations, this would require manually viewing each Officers attendance record who may have worked on such an investigation and trying to cross reference if this was done as part of their shift or overtime. This would be an extremely large undertaking with the Officers firstly having to be located and then requiring records to be searched individually. For those Officers who time could be traced to such an investigation, Nottinghamshire Police do not routinely record what tasks were undertaken as part of the Officers day. This may require checking pocket notebooks, system access of each Officer, web history and time spend on each site, meeting attendance and phone call history to give but a few examples. This data would not be held centrally, if at all, and could potentially be located across more than one department and both over a number of systems and in paper format.

To locate, retrieve and extract any information that may be held in relation to your request would require contacting every department and team within Nottinghamshire Police which may have been linked to or worked in any such area, and would then require a manual search of all records and documents held in order to identify any data relevant to your request. The work necessary to identify the vast amount of data requested 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)