

Our Ref: 004052/20



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

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23 June 2020

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 19/06/2020.

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 in part.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

I'm quite concerned to see yet again another "Dispersal Order" enacted again from Nottinghamshire Police.

Firstly around the 15th June 2020 Nottinghamshire police signed off on a Dispersal order under section 35 of the Antisocial behaviour, Crime and policing act 2014 for Sutton Town Centre in line with the prime minister's announcement that all non-essential retail can again reopen.

Secondly today I wake up again to find now they've decided to again use the same power to sign off on a Order for Hucknall town centre.

I keep looking at the protest in London, Nottingham and all around the country and cannot find one example of a police force using such



powers to over reach, i fully support Policing by consent and welcomed the Home Secretary coming out in support of police forces NOT over reaching.

You will in the factsheet written by the government https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/202891/Fact_sheet_Police_Powers.pdf you will see point 5 which refers to the condition of such orders being given.

Despite speaking to many shop staff and takeaway staff who have remained open throughout lockdown i cannot find any explanation why such orders was granted, especially at a time when the MET are dealing with such disorder should be we taking these unprecedented steps.

I have a few questions,

1. in the same link see point 12.5, it states all data should be published locally. I've check Nottinghamshire Police social media channels and the news section and I see they've now removed the order for Sutton In Ashfield town centre, what action will Paddy Tipping take to tackle this? As set in the guidelines he holds the position to hold them to account.

Answer: - No Information Held, We'd advise directing your query to

<https://www.nottinghamshire.pcc.police.uk/Get-in-touch/Enquiries.aspx>

2. Are Nottinghamshire police going to just be using such powers as more shops starts to reopen? This will cause problems for local traders who need custom. As if people keep seeing these orders they may be under the impression that they're not allowed to go into such place

Answer: - No Information Held, The application of dispersal powers are considered at a local level and approved by the relevant supervisors in line with the legislation.

3. Will Nottinghamshire police make better use of social media when posting such orders, in terms of older generations it may cause fear or alarm if they are lonely and live in Sutton In Ashfield or Hucknall?

Answer: - No Information Held, Members of the public with queries can contact their local beat teams through several methods as outlined here as an example

<https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/neighbourhood/hucknall>

4. I would like to review all the decision to use this power in both instances. I fear we may be heading for a sad state of affairs.

Answer: -

Hucknall 18/06/2020 until 19/06/2020 Grounds for Authorisation

“Re-opening of shops and local shopping centre in the Hucknall Town Centre and roads leading into the town centre. It is reasonably believed that there will be significant issues in the area as this re-opening is the first time since the COVID restrictions. It is reasonably believed that the dispersal powers will be required to prevent anti-social behaviour including sale/use of drugs, shop thefts and general disruptive behaviour that may occur following the re-opening of the town centre.”

Sutton in Ashfield 15/06/2020 until 16/06/2020 Grounds for Authorisation

“Re-opening of shops and local shopping centre in the Sutton In Ashfield Town Centre. It is reasonably believed that there will be significant issues in the area as this re-opening is the first time since the COVID restrictions. It is reasonably believed that the dispersal powers will be required to prevent anti-social behaviour including sale/use of drugs, shop thefts and general disruptive behaviour that may occur following the re-opening of the town centre.”

5. Where possible in line with the requirements can Nottinghamshire Police be open and transparent about:

(I) Who signed off on the order and why?

Answer: - Insp 3794 Dickson

(li) How many times was the order used?

Answer: - No Information Held, No S35 Dispersal Orders were issued for each area.

(lii) Did both areas have designated officers while the order was in place or was it left and patrolled as and when?

Answer: - Any officer can enforce the dispersal order.

Complaints Rights

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

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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 9670999 Ext 318 0888 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. B. R.', written in a cursive style.

Electronically signed on behalf of Information Request Team

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.

Your request for review must be received within 28 calendar days your response. If your request for review is not received within this time period a review will not be considered.

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

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>