

Our Ref: 000515/15



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

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

19 February 2015

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 21/01/2015.

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

Please find below answers to your questions:-

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.

This information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. To locate, retrieve and extract the requested information requires a manual search of all records held. Graffiti is not a crime defined in law. It is an activity that would be recorded as 'Criminal Damage'. Criminal Damage would also include a myriad of other methods employed to damage or destroy property. An initial search revealed a total of 325 such offences being recorded in a sample month. The method utilised in each crime would have to be read to determine whether it equated to an act of graffiti.

We estimate that for a five year period it would take well in excess of 900 hours work to do this.

This takes the request over the cost threshold of 18 working hours and engages Section 12 (1) of the Act.

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.

Alternatively you are invited to refine your request to bring it within the cost threshold – perhaps by reducing the number of years you require data for, and resubmitting the request.

In compliance with the spirit of the act but outside of its scope I offer to the the answers to the other questions.

A study of the effective ways of dealing and reducing graffiti.

To assist me with this topic please answer the following questions.

1. Do you engage and educate youngsters who may cause graffiti in the area? If yes please include a brief description.

Our Neighbourhood Teams consist of Police Officer's and PCSOs as well as officers specifically tasked with working with schools. These teams will deal with a variety of problems on their areas. One of the methods of dealing with these issues will be to engage with young people directly at youth clubs, schools and less formal gatherings. We would also work alongside teaching staff that may well deal with these types of issues on our behalf.

Graffiti would more than likely feature in this process particularly when it becomes prevalent.

We have to be particularly sensitive in the way we deal with these matters as insensitive action could create an interest where one did not exist.

Our Media Department issue press statements, use social media such as Facebook and Twitter as well as attending local events. Where graffiti is identified as an issue at a given time or locality then consideration would be given to addressing the issue through these media.

Our Pre-Crime unit will offer preventative advise to potential victims and provide materials relating to any number of anti-social behaviour and crime problems. This may well include graffiti.

2. How many Fixed penalty notices have you issued in the last 5 years, please divide these over the following years: April 2009 to March 2010, April 2010 to March 2011, April 2011 to March 2012, April 2012 to March 2013 and April 2013 to March 2014.

The answer to this would exceed 18 hours to provide

3. How many prosecutions have there been in the last 5 years? Please divide these over the following years: April 2009 to March 2010, April 2010 to March 2011, April 2011 to March 2012, April 2012 to March 2013 and April 2013 to March 2014.

The answer to this would exceed 18 hours to provide

4. Does your force have a graffiti strategy? If yes, please include this in your reply.

No not particularly. It would be implied within our policing priorities and standard ways of dealing with many forms of anti-social behaviour and crime problems.

5. Do you engage with the local council on enforcement and intelligence?

We work very closely with our local councils particularly through partnerships. An example of such a partnership is MPAC (Mansfield Partnership Against Crime). These partnerships bring together local authorities, police and other agencies with a common aim to reduce crime and anti-social disorder. Examples of these 'Partnerships' can be found on the internet.

6. Do have access to a national database to record and search for intelligence? If yes please give brief details.

We have access to the Police National Database. Information about this database can be found on the internet.

Clarification Received 26/01/2015

I would like to clarify a couple of queries to the questions:

Question 1: Education to youngsters this could include talks in local schools, campaigns, posters etc.

Question 2 and 3 both relate to graffiti, not just for youngsters. It includes all offenders.

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 – Paul Jeffery

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