

Our Ref: 003016/14



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

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

28 May 2014

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 07/05/2014.

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:-

Is there a dedicated corporate communications / press department in this police force? If not, does your police force share or are in collaboration with another police force?

Yes, Nottinghamshire Police does operate its own communications department which is separate to that of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

What is the name of the department(s) that deals with public relations, the press and social media in this police force? And have there been any previous names that this department was known by?

The department is currently known as Corporate Communications. This department has previously been known as the 'Media Department' and the 'Public Relations' Department in the past.

When was this department first established?

Approximately 20 years ago.

Who has operational control of the department the Chief Constable or PCC? And is this likely to change in the next year?

The Chief Constable has current control of the department. There are no planned changes.

How many people currently work in this department?

16 FTE posts

How many people worked in this department in 2004 and 1994?

Information not held for 1994.
In 2004 the establishment was 8 FTE posts.

What is the yearly budget for this department from 2000-2014?

Nottinghamshire Police are only able to supply information for the period 2010-2014. Previous to this, budgets for this department were included within the total for the Corporate Development Department as a whole. Information relating to the Corporate Communications department were not held separately.

2010/2011	£686,490
2011/2012	£529,150
2012/2013	£675,101
2013/2014	£671,360

Which social media / networking websites does your police force use? How many official Twitter accounts and Facebook pages are there for this police force?

Nottinghamshire Police has Force accounts with Facebook, Twitter and Youtube. In addition there are more than 40 Twitter accounts for Nottinghamshire Police Neighbourhood Policing teams.

Does your police force have a Press/Media policy? If so, when was the earliest policy first introduced and where can I find a copy of the latest policy?

The policy was first written in 2011 and is available on our website via the following link:

[http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/PS%20135%20Media%20Policy%20\(Final\).pdf](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/PS%20135%20Media%20Policy%20(Final).pdf)

Does your police force have a digital media / social networking policy? If so, when was the earliest policy first introduced and where can I find a copy of the latest policy?

The policy was first written in 2012 and is available on our website via the following link:

[http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/Social%20and%20Digital%20Media%20Policy%20\(Final\).pdf](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/Social%20and%20Digital%20Media%20Policy%20(Final).pdf)

How many complaints have been made between 2005 and 2014 regarding police officers or staff posting inappropriate comments/material online?

Nottinghamshire Police have previously answered a Freedom of Information request in relation to this matter which is available to view on the Freedom of Information Disclosure log on our website at the following link:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/sites/default/files/documents/files/FOI%20001364%2014.pdf>

This information is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 21 of the Act: Information reasonably accessible by other means.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17 (1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 21(1) of the act being applied.

21. – (1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) –

- a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and
- b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2) b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme.

Additionally, searches have been conducted for complaints recorded within the time parameters of your request but outside of the response provided above. One such complaint was found to be recorded.

How many investigations have been conducted / complaints received in relation to the inappropriate disclosure of information to third parties (e.g. press) both through conventional mediums and social media between 2004 and 2014?

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 to establish whether the recorded complaints fell within the scope of your request. An initial search revealed a total of 169 records over the period requested.

It is estimated that to search one record would take approximately 10 minutes which would equate to approximately 28.17 working hours. 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 accordance with the Act, once one part of the request is excess cost the whole request exceeds the cost threshold. In the spirit of the Act but outside of it I am happy to provide you with that information as above which was able to be retrieved 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;
- Are still waiting for a response and are unhappy with the delay.

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 Officer 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