

Our Ref: 004536/15
Your Ref: Legal Highs



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

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

04 August 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 08/07/2015.

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

Please find below answers to your questions:-

Could you please provide the call logs made to the force over suspected use of legal highs by members of the public?

Could you provide the details as recorded from the log, the ages and genders of anyone involved (including the caller where it is known), what type of establishment the call came from (house, school, prison), in which town/postcode locality it took place and what was suspected to have happened?

Could you please say (only where possible and it's readily available) what the outcome of any call/investigation was?

Could you please provide this data for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015?

Could you please provide the information in separate years, dating the calls where possible and in an excel spreadsheet format.

RESPONSE

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

The term, 'legal high' indicates that the use of such a substance is legal and would not therefore attract any police investigation into their use.

However we will receive requests where the use of a 'legal high' causes behaviour that in itself would require police involvement. Examples being anti-social behaviour, assaults, suspicion of illegal drug misuse and concern for a person's safety.

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 search our 'Incident Records' for such incidents is problematic in that we do not have an incident type, opening or closing codes or tags that will allow us to readily access this type of information.

We do have the ability to search the system for free text and we do get responses from the system for the phrase 'Legal High' however there will be examples where the term 'legal high' would not be included perhaps because the use of a legal high was not made apparent whilst the incident record was active or it could be that an actual 'trade' name of a legal high was used instead..

The term could also be used within a crime report linked to the incident. This could be contained within the MO field which gives a brief summary of the crime and how it was committed or within a working sheet which reports on the progress of an investigation or within an attachment which is a document scanned on to the crime report.

To check every incident record and crime record for this information would overwhelmingly exceed 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.

Unfortunately I am not able to offer any suggestion on how you could refine your question that would bring it 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