

Our Ref: 004994/14



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

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

15 September 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 12/08/2014.

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 some of the information you have requested.

I am requesting the total number of deployments/incidents attended by the forces armed response teams in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 (separate breakdown by year please). How many armed response teams did the force have in each of the years.

Nottinghamshire Police do not have 'Firearms Response Teams' We understand a 'Team' to be a group of officers working together under a designated name or means of identification e.g. 'Firearms Team 1'. Membership of the team could change over time but the team would still be recognised as an entity in its own right.

We do, however, have officers who are authorised to use firearms who patrol in Armed Response Vehicles. The officers can vary according to duty commitments. They will have access to firearms.



We answer these questions as if you were referring to these vehicles.

Nottinghamshire Police have Armed Response Officers available 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

Nottinghamshire Police are unable to provide this information in relation to your question as this information would be exempt by virtue of Section 31(1) (a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 31(1) are prejudice based qualified exemptions which requires the prejudice (harm) to be evidenced and a public interest test to be carried out.

Upon completion of this process I am then required to ascertain where the balance in compliance with both my duty to confirm or deny that information exists and/or in disclosure of any relevant information. Please see below.

31. – (1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice –

- a) the prevention or detection of crime
- b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders

Factors favouring disclosure.

Considerations which favour the disclosure of the requested information in this case include the promotion of openness and transparency in government and the police service, the benefits of greater public knowledge regarding matters of Law enforcement, and the particular public interest in further information being put into the public domain regarding the ability for the police to deal with firearms situations.

Factors favouring non-disclosure.

The disclosure of the requested information would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime in that when an individual or groups consider using firearms in the commission of crime the information would provide them with intelligence to assist in planning their crime.

Balance Test

In all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Potentially serious injury could be caused if criminals can use the type of information, as exemplified in this request, to their advantage. Reducing the likelihood of serious injury is also in the public interest. Any advantage in the public having knowledge of how many firearms vehicles patrol the area is countered by this more serious possibility.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17 (1) (a) (b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 31 of the act being applied.

I would like the figures for each year to be broken further down into:

The number of deployments which occurred because armed officers, specifically, was considered necessary (i.e. because officers might have to protect themselves from an armed person, or they are required as an operational contingency in a specific operation due to the threat assessment)

Number of incidents attended by calendar year were:

2010 – 262
2011 – 305
2012 – 296
2013 - 220

The remaining deployments/incidents attended in which armed officers were not specifically needed, but the response teams were sent anyway for reasons of proximity etc.

The number of Incidents * attended by Firearm Officers not involving Firearms by Year.

Year Total **

2010 - 8995
2011 - 8834
2012 - 7511
2013 - 7469

* Data provided is number of Incidents recorded that were attended by a Firearms Officer and where the Incident Qualifier and Incident Type does not state Firearm

** The figures do not include any duplicates

Please Note-: This data has been extracted from a live system and may be subject to change

Source-: Performance and Insight 04.09.2014

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