

Our Ref: 006498/15



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

**Tel:** 101  
**Ext** 800 2507  
**Fax:** 0115 967 2896

05 October 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 22/09/2015.

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 me with any figures you have on the number of times your officers have been first responders at the scene of a medical emergency call and had to convey patients to hospital rather than wait for an ambulance.***

***I am interested in figures over the past two years and will be happy to receive them in the easiest way you have collated them ie by month, quarter or over a 12 month period.***

***If you have any information on the length of wait on scene I would be grateful if you could include this if you have that information in a readily accessible form.***

***I would be grateful if you could treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act.***

**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.

Police vehicles are not used as ambulances. There are agreements in place with East Midlands Ambulance Service that allow, in certain circumstances, police vehicles to convey a person to hospital.

This information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. Incidents where an individual has been transferred to hospital in a Police car are not recorded centrally. Since any incident could potentially lead to an individual being transported to hospital, to establish this information would entail a manual search of all incidents recorded for the specified time period. A search of the Nottinghamshire Police Incident Management system revealed that there were 740,943 incidents recorded for the period specified (Sept 2013- Sept 2015). Conducting a search of these incidents using the keyword 'Hospital' narrowed this number down to 36,591 (although this would not take into account those incidents which had used alternate terms to the word 'Hospital' such as 'QMC' or 'A&E' or abbreviations such as 'Hosp').

It is estimated that to search one record would take around 5-10 minutes (this is an extremely conservative estimate as some incident reports can run into several pages) which would equate to approximately 3049.25 working hours (at the more conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record). 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 time period you require data for, and resubmitting the request, however, given the nature of your request and the way in which we would have to search to obtain the information, I cannot guarantee that this would not also exceed the cost threshold.

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 can inform you that Nottinghamshire Police did conduct analysis into this matter where records of incidents recorded for September 2013 were reviewed. 29,500 records were initially whittled down to approximately 400. Each of these 400 records was manually analysed and it was ascertained that there were 95 instances where an individual had been conveyed to a hospital or other medical facility in a Police car. It was found, however, that the majority of these cases involved mental health needs rather than medical treatment. This analysis for one month alone was well in excess of 18 hours.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk)