

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 14 November 2018

Public Authority: Chief Constable Humberside Police
Address: Humberside Police HQ
Priory Road, Hull
North Humberside
HU5 5SF

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant has requested information which explains certain terms found within summary prints of incident logs.
2. Following the Commissioner's intervention, Humberside Police ("the police") disclosed the information it held.
3. The Commissioner's decision is that the police has breached section 1(1) and section 10(1) of the FOIA as it had failed to comply with the request within the statutory time of 20 working days.
4. As the information has now been provided, the Commissioner does not require any further steps to be taken.

Request and response

5. On 12 August 2018, the complainant wrote to the police via WhatDoTheyKnow and requested information in the following terms:

"Dear Humberside Police,

I would be most grateful if Humberside Police could provide copies of information which explains the following terms found within summary prints of incident logs:

1. Call Sign
2. Assigned

3. *Deployed*
4. *Arrived*
5. *Released*
6. *Deassigned*
7. *PW Ref No*

Additionally, I would also be grateful if Humberside Police could provide copies of information which explains all codes/reference numbers pertaining to 'Call Signs' which include the codes/reference numbers PI44 and BI31.

Thank you for your cooperation."

6. The police acknowledged this request on 12 August 2018. It stated that the complainant would receive a response within the statutory 20 working days.
7. On 11 September 2018, the complainant wrote to the police to request that it conducts an internal review as he had not received a response to the initial request for information.
8. The police acknowledged the complainant's contact on the same day (11 September 2018).
9. The police responded to the complainant on 6 November 2018 and provided information relating to his request.

Scope of the case

10. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 11 October 2018 to complain about the way his request for information had been handled. In line with her usual practice, the Commissioner contacted the police on 30 October 2018 to highlight the outstanding response. She requested that the police respond to the request within 10 working days. The police acknowledged the contact the same day.
11. On 30 October 2018, the complainant contacted the Commissioner and requested a decision notice.
12. On 6 November 2018, the police contacted the Commissioner to confirm it had provided the information to the complainant and acknowledged the late response.
13. The following analysis covers whether the police breached section 10(1) (time for compliance) of the FOIA.

Reasons for decision

Section 10 - time for compliance

14. Section 1(1) of the FOIA states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled-

a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and

b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him."

15. Section 10(1) of the FOIA states that:

"a public authority must comply with section 1(1) promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt".

16. From the information provided to the Commissioner it is evident that the police did not deal with the request for information in accordance with the FOIA. In this case, the constabulary has breached sections 1(1) and 10(1) by failing to provide the information within 20 working days.

17. As the authority has now responded to the request, the Commissioner does not require it to take any further steps.

Right of appeal

18. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: GRC@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

19. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
20. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Andrew White
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