

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 23 August 2022

Public Authority: Office of the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner

Address: Durham Police Headquarters
Aykley Heads
Durham
DH1 5TT

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant requested information from the Office of the Durham Police & Crime Commissioner (the OPPC) about data held about themselves and any such data sent to third parties.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the OPPC breached section 10(1) of FOIA by failing to provide a valid response to the request within the statutory time frame of 20 working days. No steps are required.

Request and response

3. On 27 October 2021, the complainant made the following request for information:

"Formal FOI request, Please also forward within twenty days all information in your possession pertaining to myself and all information you have sent to third parties."
4. The OPPC responded to the request for information on 10 August 2022.

Scope of the case

5. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 15 August 2022 to complain about the OPPC's failure to respond to their request within the statutory time frame of FOIA.
6. The Commissioner has considered whether the OPPC has complied with its obligations in relation to the time for compliance at section 10(1) of FOIA.

Reasons for decision

7. Section 1(1) of FOIA states that:

"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."
8. Section 10(1) of FOIA states that a public authority must respond to a request promptly and "not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt".
9. From the evidence provided to the Commissioner in this case, it is clear that the OPPC did not deal with the request for information in accordance with FOIA. The Commissioner finds that the OPPC has breached section 10(1) by failing to respond to the request within 20 working days.

Right of appeal

10. 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: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

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

11. 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.
12. 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

Claire Churchill
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Cheshire
SK9 5AF