

28th August 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20181527

REQUEST

Please provide the following information:

1. What date did Operation Testate conclude?

2. What date did Operation Quito commence?

3. Please provide the following information relating to all arrests under Operation Quito, Operation Testate and any other arrests connected to protests at tree felling in Sheffield since 1st October 2016. Please provide the information in the form of a chronologically ordered table/spreadsheet, including the following data fields:

- The date each arrest was made
- The location of each arrest
- The location of the alleged offence
- The operation under which the arrest was made.
- The alleged offence leading to the arrest
- The rank and collar number of the arresting officer.
- The rank and collar number of the officer ordering/authorising the arrest.
- Was the arrestee 'dearrested' on site?
- Was the arrestee handcuffed?
- Was the arrestee detained and interviewed under caution at a police station after the arrest?
- Was the arrestee released under conditional police bail?
- Was the arrestee released 'under investigation' and whether the investigation remains ongoing?
- Was the arrestee charged? and specify the charge.
- Has the CPS decide not to prosecute? Include the reason for the decision not to prosecute.
- Is or was the arrest subject to a complaint against South Yorkshire Police to date (15th August 2018)?

4. Please provide the following information relating to all 'Reports for Summons' under Operation Quito. Please provide the information in the form of a chronologically ordered table/spreadsheet, including the following data fields:

- The date each 'Report for Summons' was made.
- The location of each 'Report for Summons'.
- The location of the alleged offence.
- The alleged offence leading to the 'Report for Summons'.
- The rank and collar number of the officer issuing the 'Report for Summons'.
- The rank and collar number of the officer ordering/authorising the 'Report for Summons'.
- Was a 'Summons File' prepared for the alleged offence?
- Has the 'Report for Summons' subsequently resulted in a Court Summons being issued?
- Is the alleged offence still under investigation?

RESPONSE

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a.states that fact,
- b.specifies the exemption in question and
- c.states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

Q3-

On 5th December 2017 South Yorkshire Police implemented a new recording system called Connect which replaces our Custody Handling System (CHS) . Arrest data prior to 5th December 2017 is held on our legacy system (CHS) and latest arrest data is held on our new CONNECT system.

Arrest records on these systems are not recorded under the Operation name in which the arrest was made but an Arrest Title.

To retrieve the information you require would need a manual check of every Arrest on the systems from Oct 2016 to ascertain if that particular arrest related in any way to Op Testate or Op Quito. The only way to check this is by reviewing the free text areas within the record.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

(It should also be noted that an individual can be arrested for more than one offence at any one time and may or may not be charged for all of the offences)

In essence, we would have to manually review each arrest record in the date parameters given to ascertain the record relates to the relevant subject and then to extract the detail of any cases that met the criteria of your request; this process would take much longer than 18 hours' work.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf

Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your

request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future .

Q1&2-

Op Quito began January 26th 2018. Prior to that the subject was known as Op Testate. Further details can be found on South Yorkshire Police website at:

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/right-to-information/categories-of-significant-interest/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/right-to-information/categories-of-significant-interest/operation-quito-tree-felling-from-jan-2018/operation-quito-tree-felling-from-jan-2018-publication-strategy/>