

28th August 2018

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20181322**

**REQUEST**

*I am writing this Freedom of Information (FOI) request I am fully expect my last request to be refused as it is due on the 24th July 2018 and I have not been sent a reply. I fully expect the reason for the refusal will be well researched and similar to someone pleading the 5th amendment in the USA. The reason for these requests is that I have a strong suspicion that there has been collusion between South Yorkshire Police and Sheffield Council with respect to quashing of the peaceful protests by residents around the felling of healthy street trees. The continued silence and refusals of these FOI's only reinforces my suspicions.*

*I was present at one of the felling attempts on Meersbrook Park Road where I witness some pretty shocking behaviour by the security staff employed by Amey. I was stood next to the officer where residents pleaded with him and his two other colleagues to intervene in the rough handling of the tree campaigner. This action has now been described as "inappropriate" by a high court judge. In my opinion the actions of the security team on that day should have led to some form of conviction. Additionally I feel that they have not been reported accurately by yourselves or Sheffield City council and are being deliberately understated. Last week the council expended a significant resource to try to completely negate any effective protest in an expensive court case. The opportunity to state there was a significant number of "ongoing" investigations in the court would have assisted the council significantly in there aims. Now less than a week later all charges have been conveniently dropped making me think this is another action where South Yorkshire police and Sheffield City Council are working together.*

*My previous FOI's on whatdotheyknow.com (Numbers [REDACTED] and "The potential disparity between how complaints from the members of the public and those from SIA professionals have been processed. Number 2") asked the following questions.*

- 1) The number of complaints the police have received about all types of assault or intimidation that has been recorded by the police as while supporting the felling of trees by Amey. Please could you supply the number by members of the public and those by SIA Professionals*
- 2) The number of these complaints that has resulted in arrest, again split between members of the public and SIA professionals.*
- 3) The number of these complaints that have resulted in the de-arrest of the alleged perpetrator at the site of the alleged offence, again split between members of the public and SIA professionals.*
- 4) The number of these complaints that have been resolved by restorative justice, again split between members of the public and SIA professionals.*
- 5) The number of these complaints that have been investigated for a period greater than two weeks, again split between members of the public and SIA professionals.*
- 6) The number of these complaints that have resulted in a court summons again split between members of the public and SIA professionals.*
- 7) The number of these complaints that has resulted in a prosecution, again split between members of the public and SIA professionals.*

*I do not expect an answer to these as you may incriminate yourselves but please feel free to do so if you wish.*

**This FOI is are some very simple questions in the aim that I might succeed.**

**1) In the independent report titled "Policing-Sheffield-Trees-Protests 2018" did Sheffield Council contribute anything to the report? Not just in the final content but in the topics to include.**

**2) Were Sheffield City Council privy to this report before it was published?**

**3) Why were the tree campaigners not asked for their version of events or any observations by the report authors?**

**4) Did South Yorkshire police deliberately delay the dropping of the charges until after the court case?**

**5) How many FOI's have South Yorkshire Police refused in the period April 2017 to April 2018?**

*I look forward to your reply.*

## RESPONSE

I approached the Superintendent for Neighbourhood and Partnerships who is Force Lead on this subject for assistance with your request.

He has advised:

*Points 1-3 relate to the work commissioned by the OPCC.*

Therefore our response to this element is one of "No Information Held" and they should be contacted for any details, the below link may be helpful for your research.

<http://www.southyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk/Home.aspx>

*Point 4 – All investigations went to the Crown Prosecution Service for a charging decision. They examine the facts including relevant evidence and apply the National Charging Standards.*

**Q5 –**

The below table relates to all FOI's received in the date parameters you have given. We record completed FOI's under a number of titles.

<i>Disposition</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Business as Usual</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Full Disclosure</i>	<i>621</i>
<i>No Information Held</i>	<i>107</i>
<i>Not FOI compliant</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Partial Disclosure</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>Refused</i>	<i>141</i>
<i>Refused OPL</i>	<i>158</i>
<i>Transferred</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Withdrawn</i>	<i>239</i>
<i>Grand Total</i>	<i>1456</i>