

## **Operation Artful-Mike**

South Yorkshire Police has produced the below Publications Strategy in anticipation of a significant number of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The strategy aims to provide a transparent approach to FOI detailing what exists and what can and cannot be released. Producing such a strategy will assist the Force and the public in ensuring timely and transparent responses to all requests.

The FOI publication strategy will enable us to, when appropriate use the powers within FOI legislation found at section 22.

Section 22 exempts information from disclosure which is intended for future publication. The key to it is that the decision to publish must have been made prior to any request for the information being received.

The identified benefits of engaging this exemption are that dealing with requests for certain data whilst the operation is ongoing can be complex and resource intensive. Random piecemeal disclosures may in fact damage the strategic aims of the operation and affect public confidence. There will also be an appetite from the media to gain exclusive knowledge and data, via FOI, which enables them to undermine the media strategy and even potentially disrupt the operation.

Category	Types of Information	Publication Strategy
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press/media releases</li> <li>• Internal Communications</li> </ul>	Such communications will be released on an ongoing basis – standard media strategies and considerations apply
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other outside agencies</li> </ul>	Information will not be released while the operation is ongoing.
Strategy and Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication/Media Strategies</li> <li>• Operational strategies</li> </ul>	When the operation, including any related activity, is fully complete, consideration will be given to releasing information listed subject to any relevant exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and consulting with relevant third parties as necessary.
Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gold Group Minutes</li> <li>• Minutes of joint strategy meetings</li> <li>• Policing plans</li> </ul>	
Finance	COSTINGS including but not limited to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The total of the addition cost to SYP i.e. not included in standard time</li> </ul>	SYP recognise the understandable public interest as regards how much in terms of police resources, and by extension, public funds, will be expended in achieving the goals of Operation Artful - Mike

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any travelling/accommodation costs</li>   <li>• Budget and overspend/under spend</li> </ul>	<p>Many actual costs will not be known until some time after the operation is complete and all invoices/claims have been received and accounting has been completed.</p> <p><u>Please note</u> a figure for ‘standard time’ worked by all Officers/Staff engaged on Operation Artful-Mike, will not be held by the Force and to produce this would be excessive and impracticable.</p>
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and position within the organisation that worked on Operation Artful – Mike</li>   <li>• Number of staff within organisation who have been required to self-isolate as a result of exposure, infection or caring responsibilities as such</li> </ul>	<p>SYP recognise the understandable public interest as regards how much in terms of police resources will be expended in achieving the goals of Operation Artful - Mike</p> <p>Again, this figure cannot be provided until the operation is complete as numbers will change and to produce this would be excessive and impracticable; given the fast moving nature of the operation.</p>
Operational Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many incidents relating to Operation Artful –Mike have been attended by members of the organisation</li> </ul>	<p>Such information, where it has been identified and recorded by the force will be published as part of the debrief Report (see below). All disclosure to be made subject to any relevant exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and consulting with relevant third parties as necessary.</p>
Outcome/Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public facing Debrief Report</li> </ul>	<p>Matters relevant to specific policing issues and sensitive strategic matters will not appear within any publicly circulated review document until proceedings are fully complete</p>

Category	Types of Information	Publication Strategy
Professional Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of complaints</li> <li>• How many, if any are meet the criteria under the Police Reform Act 2002 and if so provide the outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>SYP are committed to being open and accountable. Experience has shown that Police Forces are likely to receive complaints during such operations.</p> <p>The information is intended for future publication once any such claims have been investigated.</p>