

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 11 February 2015

Public Authority: Chief Constable of Leicestershire Police
Address: Police Headquarters
St Johns
Enderby
Leicester
LE19 2BX

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant requested information relating to policing of football matches within the Leicestershire Police area.
2. Leicestershire Police failed to respond to this request for information and the Commissioner's decision is that in doing so it breached sections 1(1) and 10(1) of the FOIA. The Commissioner requires Leicestershire Police to take the following steps to ensure compliance with the legislation.
 - Respond to request.

Leicestershire Police must take these steps within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of the FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Request and response

3. On 3 December 2014, the complainant wrote to Leicestershire Police and requested information in the following terms:

"1) The amount of money received from each Football League and Premier League football club within the force area to cover policing of football matches in each of the previous four completed seasons, ie

2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14.

2) The cost of policing matches at each Football League and Premier League football club within the force area in each of the previous four completed seasons.

(If actual costs are unavailable, an estimate is acceptable)

3) Any amounts repaid to individual Football League and Premier League football clubs over each of the four previous completed seasons in relation to an overpayment for policing."

4. At the time of writing Leicestershire Police had failed to respond substantively to the request.

Scope of the case

5. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 14 January 2015 to complain about the failure of Leicestershire Police to respond to his request.

Reasons for decision

6. Section 1(1) of the FOIA states that an individual who asks for information is entitled to be informed whether the information is held and, if the information is held, to have that information communicated to them.
7. Section 10(1) of the FOIA states that a public authority must respond to a request promptly and "no later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt".
8. In this case Leicestershire Police has breached sections 1(1) and 10(1) by failing to respond to the request within 20 working days.

Right of appeal

9. 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: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber>

10. 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.
11. 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

Jon Manners
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Wycliffe House
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Wilmslow
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SK9 5AF