

Dear , thank you for your Freedom of Information request.

The information that you are seeking is held by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside. Please find our response below.

Items 57, 58 and 60 refer to reports that were presented at the meeting on, respectively, Public Order Regional Collaboration Proposals, Armed Policing Proposal and Odyssey Business Case.

Under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to see all three of these reports.

Item 57 Public Order Regional Collaboration Proposals – report attached.

Item 58 Armed Policing Proposal – report attached – with a minor redaction (paragraph 1.2).

Item 60 Odyssey Business Case – report attached – with redactions.

The redactions have been made as there is reference to staffing numbers, locations, capability and covert units and it is therefore felt that Section 31(a)(b)(c) of the Act is engaged.

Section 31 – Law Enforcement is a Qualified Prejudice based exemption, there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in disclosure and weigh the public interest in disclosure versus the maintenance of the exemption applied.

Section 31(a)(b)(c) – Law Enforcement

Harm

Disclosing any information which would provide criminals with a tactical advantage on the numbers of police officers who work in sensitive specialist areas would undermine that tactical capability.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the number of police officers working in sensitive specialist policing areas would enhance transparency allowing the public to consider how the regional Forces manage their resources.

Factors Favouring Non Disclosure

It is the responsibility of the Police Service to protect the public and enforce the law. Disclosure would undermine the tactical capability of the Police through highlighting staffing levels which could affect the behaviour of those subject to law enforcement investigations, and possibly the efficacy of the investigations themselves. Some criminals may perceive that a certain staffing level corresponds to certain levels of response to certain types of crime. This may encourage them to commit more crime

believing there are “safe” areas to do so. This will result in more resources being needed in these areas.

Balancing Test

The Police will not divulge information if to do so would prejudice certain sensitive investigation areas or operations. Although it is arguable that there is public interest, the ability to deliver effective law enforcement is of paramount importance and therefore, it is our opinion that for these reasons the balance favours non disclosure at this time.

In accordance with section 17(1) of the Act this acts as a refusal notice for this part of your request.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you think that we have not supplied information in accordance with our Publication Scheme or under general rights of access then you have the right to ask for an internal review. Any request for an internal review should be made within 30 days and addressed to:

Martin Scoble
Chief Executive
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside
c/o Mail Room, Humberside Police Headquarters
Priory Road
Hull
HU5 5SF

E-mail: pcc@humberside.pnn.police.uk

We would aim to complete an internal review within 20 working days.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner’s Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely