

26th March 2015

I write following your FOI request dated 20th February 2015 in which you request;

Please provide me with a copy of all correspondence sent during the last two years between the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner (or officials acting on behalf of the Office of the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner) with representatives or officials of the National Police Air Service.

This request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Regarding your request I can now inform you that I have completed my enquiries and that my reply on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is as follows.

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland does hold some of this information.

However, I need to inform you that Section 12 of FOIA allows a public authority to refuse to deal with a request where it estimates that it would exceed the appropriate limit to: - either comply with the request in its entirety or; - confirm or deny whether the requested information is held. It states that when I estimate such, it must be reasonable in the circumstances of the case.

Where a public authority claims that section 12 is engaged, as I am informing you now, it should, where reasonable, provide advice and assistance to help the requestor to refine the request, so that it can be dealt with under the appropriate limits.

In this case I have investigated your request to cover the period when the Commissioner first took up office as a Board member of the National Police Air Service, the period being December 2014 to date. As a result of this, please find enclosed correspondence for your attention for the period I have indicated.

This bundle of material was gathered and analysed prior to the costs limit being reached.

The Commissioner agreed to join the NPAS Board in late 2014. Since becoming a Board member he has addressed several concerns and issues, including seeking to ensure that the NPAS service has a sound financial footing. He has also organised a full briefing for regional PCCs and Chief Police Officers ensuring that the operational context was fully debated and understood.

As you will see from PCC Coppinger's recent briefing letter, also attached, (published on his website), he is keen to ensure that all stakeholders are kept fully and effectively informed about NPAS services and governance.

I hope that the enclosed material is of interest.

I have sent this by post as the bundle enclosed exceeds the limit to which I can send this by e-mail.

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland has a complaints procedure.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

Mr Simon Dennis
Solicitor
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
Police Headquarters
Ladgate Lane
Middlesbrough
TS8 9EH

or you can follow the complaints procedure found on our website at: www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45 Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

John Bage
Office Manager