

2018-897

I write in connection with your email request for information dated 21 October 2018.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows:

You wrote:

Provide all correspondence etc. with the CC regarding Operation Conifer.

Response

Please see the attachment which shows:

1) Correspondence between the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable

This is a partial response under the following exemptions:

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires this office, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a Refusal Notice for those aspects of your request.

Exemptions applied:

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 40 (2) Personal information

(2) Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if—
(a) it constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
(b) either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.

(3) The first condition is—

(a) in a case where the information falls within any of paragraphs (a) to (d) of the definition of “data” in section 1(1) of the [1998 c. 29.] Data Protection Act 1998, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene—
(i) any of the data protection principles, or
(ii) section 10 of that Act (right to prevent processing likely to cause damage or distress), and
(b) in any other case, that the disclosure of the information to a member of the public otherwise than under this Act would contravene any of the data protection principles if the exemptions in section 33A(1) of the [1998 c. 29.] Data Protection Act 1998 (which relate to manual data held by public authorities) were disregarded.

(4) The second condition is that by virtue of any provision of Part IV of the [1998 c. 29.] Data Protection Act 1998 the information is exempt from section 7(1)(c) of that Act (data subject's right of access to personal data).

From: Macpherson, Angus
Sent: 09 May 2016 13:58
To: Veale, Mike
Subject: Operation Conifer

Mike,

Thanks you for the invitation for 21st which I'm pleased to accept.

I have received many representation about this in the last 6 weeks. Fortunately I am available on the day to join you. Now that the election is passed, I am conscious that this is an issue on which I will need to provide public reassurance. Before the meeting with MPs, I would like an indication of the costs of the investigation to date; the anticipated future costs; and the likely timescale for conclusion of the investigation. I know that these are questions that will be asked and ones which I will be expected to know the answers to.

The timing of any public statement I make is obviously important, and in order to ensure nothing can jeopardise the conduct of the investigation, I would appreciate if the earlier briefing for me could cover this as well.

Regards

Angus Macpherson
Police and Crime Commissioner
Tel: 01380 734022
www.wiltshire-pcc.co.uk

From: Macpherson, Angus
Sent: 23 May 2016 08:43
To: Veale, Mike
Subject: Notes from Briefing at Wiltshire HQ with Chief Constable Mike Veale on Operation Conifer 21 May 2016

Thanks.
Good note
A

Angus Macpherson
Police and Crime Commissioner

From: Veale, Mike
Sent: 21 November 2016 20:52
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; Macpherson, Angus
Subject: RE: All things child abuse

Dear [REDACTED]

I note your comments and don't feel it appropriate to respond to your personal and offensive comments.

Please be assured I take public accountability very seriously and when it is appropriate to do so I will ensure that I, as the Chief Constable and Wiltshire Police are held to account for the actions we have taken in relation to this particular case.

Yours sincerely

Mike Veale
Chief Constable

From: Veale, Mike
Sent: 24 November 2016 22:13
To: Barker, Clive; Kilgallen, Kieran
Cc: Macpherson, Angus
Subject: RE: Precept query re cost of Conifer from [REDACTED]

I am meeting [REDACTED] next week, he is a senior civil servant who may have some clout.

Thanks

Mike

Mike Veale
Chief Constable

From: Veale, Mike
Sent: 06 December 2016 09:07
To: Macpherson, Angus
Subject: RE: Open Letter

I have spoken to this lady on the phone. To say the least she is an interesting character!!

I will think carefully what I am going to say and copy you in.

Mike Veale
Chief Constable

From: Macpherson, Angus
Sent: 06 December 2016 08:42
To: Veale, Mike
Subject: Fwd: Open Letter

Copy of your reply/ action would be appreciated
A

From: Veale, Mike
Sent: 18 July 2017 11:14
To: Mills, Paul (ACC)
Cc: Kilgallen, Kieran; Macpherson, Angus; Kirby, Steve; Mills, Clare
Subject: Re: Proposed Lines for Lords Brief

Thanks Paul, this seems clear enough.

I am not sure it will satisfy the protagonists. We should make it clear that there is not current judicial process which enables the determination of guilt which is a constitutional and legislative issue and not a matter for Wiltshire Police.

It should also be made clear that we should not set an unsustainable precedent in respect of this as it would be unacceptable from a wider policing perspective, so obviously this case is of such national interest from a policing perspective not just a public interest perspective that it would be injudicious of me to follow a course of action that would have a disproportionate impact across the country.
Thanks again

Regards

Mike

From: Veale, Mike
Sent: 18 July 2017 12:09
To: Kilgallen, Kieran
Cc: Mills, Paul (ACC); Macpherson, Angus
Subject: Re: Meeting 19th July [REDACTED]

I think this is a sensible outcome Kieran given the timing of the final report and the landscape we are operating in.

Regards

Mike

Sent from my iPad

From: Veale, Mike
Sent: 29 September 2017 16:17
To: JamesGrayMP@parliament.uk
Cc: Macpherson, Angus
Subject: FW: Wiltshire Police report into allegations against Sir Edward Heath

Dear Mr Gray

As you will appreciate, this investigation has been subject to significant public scrutiny, speculation and unhelpful commentary which on occasions I believe has been with a motivation to undermine the professionalism and integrity of Wiltshire police. The final report which still remains in draft, will be published on the 5th October 2017. In order for the report to be balanced, fair, measured and accurate, colleagues have engaged with a number of trusted stakeholders and we will continue to do so until this report is published. During this process it has not been necessary to brief you in relation to this matter but if you would like a high level briefing then I am sure I can arrange it prior to the 5th October 2017.

The second point you make is whether your local MP colleagues will be allowed to attend this event. I do apologise, but in line with national best practice this cannot be facilitated as this event is open only to accredited members of the press. I am however taking steps for it to be live streamed so that the wider public can have access to it if they choose to.

I will of course, send a copy of the publication to local MP's at the time of its formal release. I will also extend the offer to discuss the report with you and your colleagues if you so wish.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike".

Mike Veale
Chief Constable