



Mike Buchanan
mike@j4mb.org.uk

29 March 2016

Ref: 5936

Dear Mr Buchanan

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request which we received on 20 November 2015. We apologise for the delay associated with this response.

The FOI Act gives you the right to know whether we hold the information you want and to have it communicated to you, subject to any exemptions which may apply. It is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. This means that any information disclosed under the FOI Act by definition becomes available to the wider public.

Request

I copy your request in italics below for ease of reference:

Dear Ms Saunders,

Ref: 5551. New FOI request concerning your dealings with organizations advocating for victims of domestic abuse and/or domestic violence and/or sexual offences

Thank you for the letter dated 18 September 2015, from your colleague Mr A Martin. Our new FOI request:

- 1. Please disclose whether any correspondence exists from 23.7.13 onwards between you and organizations advocating for victims of domestic abuse and/or domestic violence and/or sexual offences. For the avoidance of doubt, these organizations should include but not be limited to (a) Women's Aid, (b) Refuge, and (c) Rape Crisis. Please include organizations with titles which include those terms, and similar ones.*
- 2. Please provide copies of any and all such correspondence, without redactions.*
- 3. Please disclose whether any meetings took place from 23.7.13 onwards, attended by yourself along with representatives of organizations advocating for victims of domestic abuse and/or domestic violence and/or sexual offences. For the avoidance of doubt, these organizations should include but not be limited to (a) Women's Aid, (b) Refuge, and (c) Rape Crisis. Please include organizations with titles which include those terms, and similar ones.*



4. Please provide copies of minutes and/or notes relating to these meetings, without redactions.

Response

The CPS is not able to answer your request within the cost limit set out in the FOI Act. To answer your request would require a search of every record for all correspondence and meetings the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) has had with any external organisations from 23 July 2013 onwards to be completed. It would also require a review of all correspondence received and sent by the DPP during the time period specified. This review would be required to determine whether domestic abuse and/or domestic violence and/or sexual offences were discussed and whether the participants could be considered to be advocating for female or male victims.

Section 12(1) of the Act means public authorities are not obliged to comply with a request for information if it estimates the cost of complying would exceed the appropriate limit. [The appropriate limit for central government it is set at £600.](#) This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 3.5 working days determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act we have an obligation to advise what, if any, information may assist you with your request. The CPS does hold information relating to (a) Women's Aid, (b) Refuge, and (c) Rape Crisis which can be gathered within the timeframe set out under Section 12 of the FoIA 2000. Please let me know if you would like this information and I will take it forward as a new request under the FOI Act. Please be aware the material in scope will need to be carefully considered to ascertain whether it should be disclosed in line with the exemptions listed within the Act.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response. The internal review will be handled by a member of CPS staff who has not been involved with your original request.

FOI.Unit@cps.gsi.gov.uk

Information Management Unit
Rose Court
2 Southwark Bridge
London
SE1 9HS

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner Office's (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

Ms F Sayed

Information Management Unit
020 3357 0899
FOI.Unit@cps.gsi.gov.uk