



Mr Mike Buchanan
mike@j4mb.org.uk

Ref: 6003 and 6004

27 April 2016

Dear Mr Buchanan

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 REQUEST

I refer to your Freedom of Information request which was received by the department on 30 March 2016.

It may be helpful if I explain that the Freedom of Information Act is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. Information disclosed under it is thereafter deemed to be in the public domain, and therefore freely available to the general public upon request.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act creates a statutory right of access to recorded information held by public authorities i.e. the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). This right is to be informed whether the information requested is held by the public authority or not, and if the information exists, for it to be communicated. A public authority must reply to such a request promptly and in any event, not later than twenty working days after receipt.

The individual's right to information is not unqualified; it is subject to a number of exemptions that are contained within the Act. The majority of these exemptions are qualified, that is to say the decision whether to confirm or deny the information's existence or to disclose the requested material, will be subject to a public interest test.

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

Please disclose whether any correspondence exists from 23.7.3 onwards between you (the current Director of Public Prosecutions) and (a) Women's Aid, (b) Refuge, and (c) Rape Crisis

The information you have request is exempt under section 36 'the effective conduct of public affairs' of the FoIA 2000. Please refer to the attached section 17 notice which contains the reasons for my decision.

Some of the material we consider to be suitable for disclosure under Fol is attached and titled 'Attachment 1- Letters from the DPP and Attachment 2- Letters from Refuge and Women's Aid'.

Please be aware that any redactions have been made under section 40 'Personal Information' of the FoIA 2000.

In relation to reference 6004, I copy the request in italics below.

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.

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

This is a repeated request and The CPS had previously responded to this FOI enquiry under reference 5936 on 29 March 2016. Please find attached our previous response to your request.

Review

If you are unhappy with the decisions made in relation to your request you may ask for an internal review within two calendar months of the date of this letter. You should contact the Information Management Unit (Freedom of Information Appeals), Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge, London, SE1 9HS.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to complain directly to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at:

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

Yours sincerely,

Ms F Sayed

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