

Reply to: Leah Smith

Tel No: 01953 423506

10th September 2020

Dear Member of Public,

Freedom of Information Request FOI/OPCCN/189

I am writing in connection with your email dated 16th August 2020, in which you requested the following information:

“In respect of grants made by the Home Office from the Safer Streets Fund please provide the following information:

- 1. Did your office apply?**
- 2. Provide a copy of your application(s)**
- 3 Provide a copy of any grant letter(s) received together with any conditions attached to the grant(s)**
- 4. Any information held with regards to ongoing revenue costs not covered by the Home Office grant.”**

I have reviewed our records and I can advise the following:

1. Yes, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (OPCCN) did apply for the Safer Streets Fund.
2. I can confirm that the OPCCN holds the information that you requested. However, after careful consideration we have decided that the information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1) ‘Law enforcement’ of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Section 31 can be claimed by any public authority, not just those with law enforcement functions.

Section 31 can be used by a public authority that has no law enforcement function to protect the work of one that does.

Section 31 is a prejudice-based exemption and is therefore subject to the public interest test when considering if this information should be disclosed or withheld. The prejudice test is not limited to the harm that could be caused by the disclosure of the information requested. As some requests may set a precedent, it is in some

cases appropriate to consider any harm that would be caused by combining the requested information with the information a public authority could be forced to subsequently provide, if the current requested was complied with.

Section 31(1) (A) provides that information can be withheld where disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of a crime.

Factors favouring the disclosure of information

Disclosure in relation to this request would promote openness and transparency, which are fundamental principles of the FOIA.

Factors against the disclosure of information

Disclosure of this information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime relevant to your request given the information provided as part of the application process. Furthermore, by disclosing this information harm could be caused by the precedent effect to future bids and funding of services.

Balance

Information released under the FOIA is a release to the world and not just to the person submitting the request. Therefore, in order to avoid any harm in the prevention and detection of crimes in relation to this request and any future requests, the balance lies in favour of not disclosing the bid application created by the OPCCN.

However, for transparency, more information on the Safer Streets Fund and how it will be used can be found on our website at the following address:

<https://www.norfolk-pcc.gov.uk/news/initiative-to-reduce-burglaries-and-thefts-in-norwich-welcomed-by-pcc-and-partners/>

3. We have not received a grant letter at the time of writing and the grant agreement is not yet finalised so we are unable to provide it at this time, but this will be published on our website as soon as this is available.
4. This information is not held by the OPCCN.

Yours sincerely

L. Smith

Leah Smith
Complaints and Compliance Officer and FOI Decision Maker
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk

Internal Review

If you think we have not supplied information in accordance with Section 1 (the General Right of Access) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, or you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled, then you should write within 40 days of the date of the response to:

Mark Stokes
Chief Executive
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
Jubilee House
Falconers Chase
Wymondham
Norfolk
NR18 0WW

Telephone: 01953 424455

Email: opccn@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

If you are dissatisfied in any way with our response or the way we have handled your request, you can contact us by phone, email or in writing. We may, in the first instance, try and resolve your complaint informally. However, at any stage you can request or we may decide to treat your complaint formally under our internal review process.

An internal review is conducted by the Chief Executive who will review the request and response, taking account of your complaint(s), and will respond in writing as soon as possible. The Information Commissioner's Office recommends that a response should be made in 20 working days. If we are unable to respond in this timeframe we will inform you and provide a date by which you should expect to receive our response.

If, after the internal review, you remain dissatisfied then you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office, the government regulator for the Freedom of Information Act. Details of how to contact the Information Commissioner's Office can be found at www.ico.org.uk