Dear [Name],

Freedom of Information Request Reference No: 2014120001306

I respond in connection with your request for information which was received by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on 17/12/2014. I note you seek access to the following information:

The number of officers assigned to policing linked to the DSEI Arms Fair in September 2013

EXTENT OF SEARCHES TO LOCATE INFORMATION

To locate the information relevant to your request searches were conducted at MPS Specialist Crime and Operations (SCO22) Public Order.

RESULT OF SEARCHES

The searches located information relevant to your request.

DECISION

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you in full.

The total number of officers assigned to policing the DSEI Arms Fair in September 2013 is 1577

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet which details your right of complaint.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please email me quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely,

Information Manager

In complying with their statutory duty under sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to release the enclosed information, the Metropolitan Police Service will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be
addressed to MPS Directorate of Legal Services, 1st Floor (Victoria Block), New Scotland Yard, Victoria, London, SW1H 0BG.

**COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to require the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome to discuss the response with the case officer who dealt with your request.

**Complaint**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the MPS made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can lodge a complaint with the MPS to have the decision reviewed.

Complaints should be made in writing, within forty (40) working days from the date of the refusal notice, and addressed to:

FOI Complaint
Public Access Office
PO Box 57192
London
SW6 1SF
PublicAccessOffice@met.police.uk

In all possible circumstances the MPS will aim to respond to your complaint within 20 working days.

**The Information Commissioner**

After lodging a complaint with the MPS if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 01625 545 745

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I will submit a request to the MPS FOIA Logging Team in relation to the number of officers assigned to policing linked to the DSEI Arms Fair in September 2013 (As mentioned previously, the MPS was present at the DSEI Arms Fair to manage any public protest associated with the event.)

For your information, the MPS used to produce an annual report on significant Public Order events for the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA). However, as part of the transition to the Mayor's Office for policing and Crime (MOPAC) in January 2012, MOPAC informed the MPS that the report was no longer required, hence the information is no longer collated as a matter of course.

Thank you
Metropolitan Police response (2.10.2007, ref 2007090003499) to A Freedom of Information request stated, "The estimated total cost of the policing operation, to the MPS is £1.8m. £1.2m of the estimate is in relation to opportunity costs... The operation involved 4,475 police officer shifts and 294 police staff shifts."

Could you let me know why it was possible to provide the information then, but not now?

Separately, I assume that the MPS would know, centrally, the number of officers it had allocated to policing DSEI. If it is not possible to allocate costings, please could you provide the number of officers deployed in relation to the event.

Yours sincerely

Research Co-ordinator
Campaign Against Arms Trade
020 7281 0297
www.caat.org.uk

From: [redacted]@met.police.uk [redacted]@met.police.uk>
Sent: 25 November 2014 10:12
To: [redacted]
Subject: MPS Response to Freedom of Information Act Request 2014100002611

Dear [redacted]

Freedom of Information Request Reference No: 2014100002611

I respond in connection with your request for information which was received by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on 29/10/2014. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please could you provide me with an estimate of the policing costs relating to the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair that took place at Excel in September 2013. I would be grateful if you could provide a breakdown of the costs and the number of officers deployed in relation to the event.

DECISION

This E-mail is to inform you that it will not be possible to respond to your request within the cost threshold.

We estimate that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the appropriate limit. The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for agencies outside central Government; this is set at £450.00. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours [at a rate of £25 per hour] in determining whether the MPS holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting the information.
Once part of the request goes over cost the whole request is exempt by virtue of Section 12 and there is no obligation to answer any part of the request therefore, In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (the Act), this E-Mail acts as a Refusal Notice for the whole of your request under Section 12 (2) (See ICO decision notice in Legal Annex).

REASONS FOR DECISION

Your request asks for information that would require a disproportionate amount of work to obtain. The MPS does not hold the information you require centrally, although it may be held locally but not necessarily in an easily retrievable format. I estimate that the Act’s cost threshold would be exceeded on the basis of the time needed to conduct the searches outlined below:

You have asked for the policing costs for the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) Arms Fair.

The MPS was present at the DSEI Arms Fair to manage any public protest associated with the event.

The MPS deals with approximately 4000 public order events of varying sizes and types every year. The MPS does not generally collate costs for each separate protest that it polices.

In order to provide a cost figure for policing the DSEI Arms Fair, the records of hours worked and overtime for every officer and police staff involved in the policing of the event would have to be to be identified, located and reviewed before any collation or breakdown of costs could be made. Costs would not be limited to officers assigned to the event. It would also include the officers and police staff involved in the planning and resourcing of the event and would include any non human resources such as helicopters and dogs. We estimate that to retrieve and collate information relevant to your request would exceed the cost threshold allowed for Freedom of Information Act requests.

Section 16(duty to assist)

We are required to offer you the opportunity to redefine your request within the cost threshold allowed for requests under the Act.

Unfortunately due to the rationale noted above, I am unable to suggest any practical way in which your request may be modified in order to bring it within the 18 hours stipulated by the Regulations.

NB A public authority is not obliged to assist an applicant in redefining a request to within the time/cost limit, if there is no probability of achieving this.

This was confirmed in Decision Notice 50194062.

The link below is to a previous Freedom of Information Act request on the subject of the DSEI Arms Fair may be of interest to you.

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet which details your right of complaint.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please E-Mail me or contact me on telephone number 0207 230 6267 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

SC & O Information Manager

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?
You have the right to require the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again -
The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Complaint

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Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Phone: 01625 545 700

Legal Annex

Section 1(1) of the Act states that:

Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled-

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and

(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

Section 12 (2)

Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

Section 16 (1) states that

It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.

Section 17(5) of the Act provides:

(5) A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is relying on a claim that section 12 or 14 applies must, within the time for complying with section 1(1), give the applicant a notice stating that fact.

ICO Decision
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