

1 August 2024

IC-319504-G5R3

Request

In summary, you asked us:

"In a recent ICO document (attached) there was a section headed "Exemptions, Exceptions, and Redactions."

Could you please provide ICO guidance or similar as to the application of all 3 and in particular the application of redactions and whether each and every redaction requires an explanation and justification so at least the requester then knows why the redaction is being applied; otherwise blanket redactions can be applied and the requester has no idea why and no means of challenging whether redactions have been properly or legally applied. For the avoidance of doubt this information request is not confined to police forces."

The attached document was 'Findings from ICO consensual audits on Freedom of Information of police forces in England in Wales', published July 2024.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the FOIA).

Our response

We have searched our systems based on the information you provided and can confirm that we hold some information within the scope of your request.

Because your request referred to an audit of Freedom of Information practices, we have interpreted your request for guidance on exemptions, exceptions, and redactions to specifically refer to these things under the Freedom of Information Act.

The ICO publishes all of our guidance on FOI exemptions, as well as other information and resources for organisations responding to FOI requests, [on our website](#).

We have an [online index](#) of guidance, including guidance for the application of specific FOI exemptions.

We also have an online [Guide to managing an FOI request](#) for organisations, which includes a link to the National Archive's toolkit on how to apply redactions.

Because this material is already reasonably accessible to you, it is technically withheld under section 21 of the FOIA. This exempts information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant through means other than a request under the FOIA.

It is an absolute exemption, which means it is not necessary for us to consider any public interest test.

This concludes our response to your request. We hope this information is useful to you.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. Please let us know in writing if you want us to carry out a review. Please do so within 40 working days.

You can read a copy of our full review procedure [here](#).

If we perform a review but you are still dissatisfied, you can complain to the ICO as regulator of the FOIA. This complaint will be handled just like a complaint made to the ICO about any other public authority.

You can [raise a complaint through our website](#).

Your information

Our [Privacy notice](#) explains what we do with the personal data you provide to us, and set out your rights. Our retention schedule can be found [here](#).

Yours sincerely



Information Access Team
Risk and Governance Department, Corporate Strategy and
Planning Service
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water
Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF
ico.org.uk twitter.com/iconews
Please consider the environment before printing this email
**For information about what we do with personal
data see our [privacy notice](#)**