

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 13 November 2024

**Public Authority:** Chief Constable of Cleveland Police  
**Address:** St Marks House  
St Marks Court  
Thornaby  
Stockton on Tees  
TS17 6QW

#### **Decision (including any steps ordered)**

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1. The complainant requested information about the support provide to the victims of the crimes which Operation Magnolia focuses on. Cleveland Police relied on section 14(1) of FOIA (vexatious) to refuse the request.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the request was vexatious and therefore Cleveland Police was entitled to rely upon section 14(1) of FOIA to refuse it.
3. The Commissioner does not require any steps.

#### **Request and response**

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4. On 30 May 2024, the complainant wrote to the Cleveland Police and requested a variety of information about abuse allegations at a particular detention centre and the work being done to assist victims. As the full request ran to several pages, the Commissioner has not reproduced it here.
5. Cleveland Police responded on 30 May 2024, advising that the request was being refused under section 14. A position which it maintained during its internal review.

## Reasons for decision

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### Section 14(1) – vexatious requests

6. In cases where a public authority is relying on section 14(1), it is for the public authority to demonstrate why it considers that a request is a disproportionate, manifestly unjustified, inappropriate or improper use of FOIA.
7. The Commissioner has outlined his view in a similar request for information made by the same complainant in his Decision Notice IC-324162-D5L0<sup>1</sup>. In that case, the Commissioner upheld Cleveland Police's position that the request was vexatious.
8. The Commissioner has considered the specific circumstances of this case and he considers that the same factors that caused the previous request to be refused apply equally here. He has therefore adopted the arguments provided by Cleveland Police in IC-324162-D5L0 and, for the same reasons as in that decision notice, has concluded Cleveland Police was also entitled to rely on section 14 when refusing this request.

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<sup>1</sup> [ic-324162-d5l0.pdf](#)

## Right of appeal

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9. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)  
GRC & GRP Tribunals,  
PO Box 9300,  
LEICESTER,  
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: [grc@justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

10. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
11. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Roger Cawthorne**  
**Senior Case Officer**  
**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire**  
**SK9 5AF**