

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 624

Question:

In terms of the freedom of information Act I hereby request the following information:

- Does the Chief Constable (and other Chief Police Officers in your force / constabulary) have a contract with the Police and Crime Commissioner / Police Authority or equivalent?
- If yes – what specific contractual matters are detailed therein (for each chief officer)?
- If unwilling to identify the specific contractual terms therein, please provide details of the broad terms and conditions detailed therein for each chief officer (for example does the contract provide for private medical insurance / “golden hello” payments or other inducements)
- Details of any payments, reimbursements or allowances paid or made to each of your chief officers, other than those explicitly permitted in police regulations.

In addition I would be obliged if you could provide details of any statutory authority that permits the Police and Crime Commissioner / Police Authority or equivalent to enter into any contracts as detailed in this request, with chief officers.

Please provide all details for the past 5 years.

Answer:

Bullet point 1, 2 and 3:

The Freedom of Information Act allows a right of access to recorded information. For the Purpose of the Act, information that is recorded or documented can be disclosed. Information will not be held for the purposes of the Act where it relates to, for example, understanding, knowledge and opinion and is not recorded.

There is no obligation for the PCC’s office to create information to satisfy a request. In this instance we would need to create a “yes” or “no” answer for your questions. As such the information requested is not recorded information.

To assist you, the annual accounts, published on the PCC’s website, includes the main terms of a Chief Constable’s offer of employment. Please see the link below.

Bullet point 4:

As the information regarding the model publication scheme and annual statement of accounts is already published on the PCC’s website then

there is no obligation for the PCC's office to supply the information you have requested.

The exemption applicable to this information is Section 21: Information reasonably accessible by other means. This is an absolute and class based exemption and as such does not require a harm and public interest test.

The details of pay, expenses and allowances for the Chief Constable and other Senior Officers can be found on the PCC's website and a link is provided below, for ease of reference. Page 27 in the draft 2015/16 for disclosure of information regarding Senior Officers refers:

<http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Openness/How-we-spend-your-money.aspx>

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, this reply represents a Refusal Notice for your request.