

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 619

Question:

Regarding the use of dispersal powers under Part 3 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Home Office's "Reform of anti-social behaviour powers - Statutory guidance for frontline professionals"[July 2014] says:

"Police forces may wish to publish data on the use of the dispersal power to be transparent about their use of it. Police and Crime Commissioners will have an important role in holding forces to account to ensure that officers are using the power proportionately. Publication of data locally will help highlight any 'hotspot' areas that may need a longer-term solution, such as diversionary activities for young people or security measures in pubs and clubs to prevent alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in town centres."

Can you confirm whether you are provided with data from the police on the number of authorisations for dispersal powers under section 34 of the Act and where 'hotspots' occur, in order to scrutinise the use of these powers?

If so, can you publish details within Avon & Somerset for the first six months of 2016?

Answer:

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.