

23rd June 2022
FOI925 CON-32724/RM

Sent via email [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI925 CON-32724

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC's) office have now completed the search for the information which you requested on the 27th May 2022.

Your request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I wish to see the following:

Full copies of all communications between Sue Mountstevens (former Avon and Somerset PCC) and any members of the Mayor of Bristol's Office from March through to May 2021.

Please include:

- Emails
- Written letters
- Records of meetings
- Transcripts/readouts of phone calls
- SMS/WhatsApp/Signal messages

Where an email has been identified please disclose the full thread for context. Please also search draft and (where possible) deleted email folders.

Please also include any attachments.

Where a meeting has been identified please include the minutes, agendas and briefing materials.

Our response:

I have conducted a similar search process as per your request case reference FOI 923-32656. I have conducted a search of our case management system and deleted emails, as a result I have not identified any relevant material.

In this instance we conducted an additional search for any emails retained on the iCloud. Even with the defined search criteria this has returned a vast number of emails that were not relevant. As such it would take a considerable amount of time to establish which were relevant to your request. In this instance unfortunately the cost of compliance is exceeded and we are unable to identify if any information relevant to your request is recorded.

This request is refused under Section 12(2) of the Act because we estimate that the cost of identifying whether we hold the requested information would exceed the cost limits under the Act. Section 12 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit, which for authorities is set at £450 or 18 staff hours work. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting it. This letter represents a Refusal Notice under the Act.

Due to the search being conducted with restricted parameters and a short timeframe, I am unable to recommend any ways in which you could refine your request to a manageable level.

If you have any queries about this letter then please contact me, quoting the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are unhappy about how your request has been handled and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision then you should write to:

The Chief Of Staff
Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
Valley Road
Portishead
Bristol
BS20 8JJ

Please note, Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's office provides you with the right to request a re-examination of your case under its review procedure. The appeals document is attached for your reference.

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's office. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: <http://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer

Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioners Office