

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 2 September 2014

Public Authority: Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service

Address: New Scotland Yard
Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant has requested a list of intelligence databases from the Metropolitan Police Service (the "MPS"). To date he has not received a response. The Commissioner's decision is that the MPS has failed to provide a response to the request within the statutory time frame of 20 working days. He requires it to comply with the request or issue a valid refusal notice as set out in section 17 of the FOIA.
2. The MPS must take these steps within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of the Act and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Request and response

3. On 15 April 2014, the complainant wrote to the MPS and requested information in the following terms:

"Could you please provide the following: A list of all intelligence databases operated within the MPS/Metropolitan Police Business Groups. For example; Crimint or the National Domestic Extremism and Disorder Intelligence Unit database. I would ask you to please list these system names alongside the responsible part of the MPS"

for each and any summary information/description held as to the purpose and nature of each. If you have any queries or would like further information to assist you interpreting the request, or if you are considering applying exemptions to the response in whole or part, I would ask you to please contact me at the earliest opportunity”.

4. The MPS acknowledged the request on 23 April 2014. The complainant chased a response on a number of occasions, the final one being on 10 August 2014. The MPS advised that the delay was due to the request needing responses from various “Subject Matter Experts” from several departments.

Scope of the case

5. The complainant contacted the Commissioner to complain about the lack of response on 11 August 2014.
6. On 28 August 2014 the complainant confirmed that he had still not received a response.

Reasons for decision

7. The Commissioner considered whether the MPS has responded to the request of 15 April 2014 in line with the provisions of the FOIA.
8. Section 10(1) of the FOIA states that on receipt of a request for information a public authority should respond to the applicant within 20 working days.
9. From the information provided to the Commissioner in this case it is evident that the public authority did not respond to the complainant within the statutory time frame and so it is in breach of section 10(1) of the FOIA.

Right of appeal

10. 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: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: GRC@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

11. 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.
12. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Jon Manners
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