

Further to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000, below, I am writing to advise you that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is unable to comply with your request because we estimate that doing this will exceed the fees limit provided for by Section 12 of the FOI Act. This states that a public authority is exempt from the duty to disclose where the cost of compliance is estimated to exceed £450 (based on a standard cost of £25/hr, ie, where the time taken to comply with the request would exceed 18 hours). The cost of compliance is the cost involved in determining whether the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

The Chief Constable has a duty to deal with complaints against police officers and police staff and, as you correctly note, any complaints about police officers or police staff received by this office are passed to the Professional Standards Department (PSD) in West Yorkshire Police.

The OPCC does not separately record complaints sent to PSD or complaints about illegal access to the police national computer. To identify whether this information is held would, therefore, require each case to be assessed individually. Approximately 4,000 cases have been received by the OPCC since January 2014 and 490 of these have been categorised as a complaint against West Yorkshire Police. A keyword search of documents held on OPCC systems which relate to casework has failed to identify either 'PNC' or 'Police National Computer' in any of the records.

I am aware that you have also made this request to West Yorkshire Police. The Chief Constable is the appropriate authority under the Police Reform Act 2002 to make recording decisions about complaints and to arrange conduct investigations for police officers and police staff and the police, therefore, is the most appropriate body to provide you with this information.

I hope that you are satisfied with this response. I am attaching the appeal procedure, however, should you wish to lodge an appeal.