



My Reference: OPCC/

Your Reference:

This matter is being dealt with by: Melissa Ashdown-Hoff
Email:foi@westyorkshire-pcc.gov.uk

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 20-20

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15th August 2020 which was received by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner on 15th August 2020. You requested the following information:

In respect of grants made by the Home Office from the Safer Streets Fund please provide the following information:

1. Did your office apply?

Yes

2. Provide a copy of your application(s)

The office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire submitted 2 applications, copies of which are attached to this email.

You will find that both applications have been redacted to remove information which we believe would be harmful if disclosed. Information can only be withheld from disclosure where there is an exemption within the Freedom of Information Act which exempts the information from disclosure.

The name and job title of an external employee has been removed from the applications under section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act which covers personal information as it would be unfair to the individual to disclose their name.

The other information which has been removed details the vulnerability of the housing stock in the areas of Leeds and Bradford where the applications have been made and also details some of the mitigations and improvements which will be made to the properties and public spaces to reduce crime in the area. We feel that to publish the information at this point in time would advertise to criminally minded individuals which properties in the area were vulnerable and where they could target

any criminal activity. We also believe that the publication of some of the crime prevention measures which will be implemented at this point in time would enable individuals to take counter measures. This information is exempt under section 31 (Law Enforcement) of the Freedom of information Act which covers information which would harm the prevention or detection of crime. This exemption can only be applied if the public interest

Public Interest Argument Favoring Disclosure

Use of public funds. It is important that the public are able to scrutinize how public money is spent.

Openness and Transparency, the public have a right to access information held by public authorities and hold them to account, for the decisions which are made.

Public Interest Arguments Favoring Non-Disclosure.

It is important that when completing applications for funding for crime reduction initiatives that the OPCC is able to paint a full picture of the issues affecting a particular area and remedies which could be used to reduce crime without the information being made public.

Disclosure of the information would undermine the effectiveness of the crime reduction initiatives proposed which would not be in the public interest as it would be a waste of public money and mean the improvements to community safety and crime prevention would not be realized.

On balance the public interest rests in the non-disclosure of the information removed from the applications. I have reached this decision as openness and transparency and the scrutiny of public spending and decision making can be achieved through the disclosure of the majority of the application as attached. The information removed from both applications relates to the vulnerabilities of existing housing stock in both areas and measures to improve security and reduce crime and it would not be in the public interest to publish this information.

3 Provide a copy of any grant letter(s) received together with any conditions attached to the grant(s)

As at the date of your request the OPCC did not hold this information.

3. Any information held with regards to ongoing revenue costs not covered by the Home Office grant.

As at the date of your request the OPCC did not hold this information.

If you consider that your request for information has not been handled properly, you can ask for an internal review of our decision. I have attached a copy of our appeals policy which explains how to submit an appeal and who will consider it. You can also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office via their website <https://ico.org.uk/make-a->

[complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/](#) or by telephone on 0303 123 1113, although please note they would usually expect you to have gone through our internal review procedure before contacting them.

Yours sincerely

Melissa Ashdown-Hoff
Information Governance Officer
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

