Freedom of Information Request Reference No:

I note you seek access to the following information:

These questions relate to the Met Trace/ Smart Water programme.

**Please provide any analysis carried out in the past 12 months on the effectiveness of the programme since it was initiated.

**Please include any data or other information that compare numbers and trends for burglary and overall crime in areas where Met Trace has been operated and where it has not been operated.

**Provide any analysis carried out of the effect of Met Trace on crime trends in areas neighbouring those areas where it has been operated.

**How many homes have so far been provided with Met Trace and what is the cost per unit to the Met? What would be the estimated cost per unit of any further roll out?

**What are the estimated savings in police time and money achieved by Met Trace?

**Please provide any communications with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and/or the Deputy Mayor for Policing discussing the merits of Met Trace and/or the advisability of expanding or not expanding the programme.

**DECISION

I have today decided to disclose some of the requested information. Some data has been withheld as it is exempt from disclosure and therefore this response serves as a Refusal Notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) by virtue of the following exemption:
Section 43(2) exemption - Commercial Interests.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The exemption provided by Section 43 has been utilised in response to your questions relating to the current cost per unit, and future costs per unit of Met Trace. I have also applied this exemption to any communication between the MPS and MOPAC as no final decision has been reached in relation to expanding or not expanding the programme. The disclosure of this information would be detrimental to the commercial interests of our suppliers and the MPS, and would reduce the level of competition within the procurement process.

DISCLOSURE

Please find below information pursuant to your request. All information disclosed is accurate as of May 2018.

**Please provide any analysis carried out in the past 12 months on the effectiveness of the programme since it was initiated.**

Since the project started in April 2015, Residential Burglary has reduced by 22.2% in MetTrace areas versus a rise of 1.6% in Non MetTrace areas.

**Please include any data or other information that compare numbers and trends for burglary and overall crime in areas where Met Trace has been operated and where it has not been operated.**

In the Last 12 months all residential burglary has increased, however, MetTrace areas have only increased by 11.2% compared to a larger increase of 33.2% in Non MetTrace areas.

**Provide any analysis carried out of the effect of Met Trace on crime trends in areas neighbouring those areas where it has been operated.**

Please see research study conducted by Chief Superintendent Iain Raphael titled
'Cooling hot property? An assessment of the impact of property marking on residential burglary reduction, crime displacement or diffusion of benefits and public confidence': In my duty to advise and assist please find a link to this below:


**How many homes have so far been provided with Met Trace.**

MetTrace is the largest global rollout of forensic marking kits with over 325,000 households so far.

**What is the cost per unit to the Met? What would be the estimated cost per unit of any further roll out?**

The MPS is to tender for a new MetTrace contract shortly. The answers to these questions are therefore considered to be commercially sensitive by the MPS. The exemption set out by Section 43 (Commercial Interests) of the Act is accordingly claimed in response to this part of your request.

**What are the estimated savings in police time and money achieved by Met Trace?**

There have been 5,775 less burglaries as a result of MetTrace since the project started. This equates to 110,829 police hours and £4,620,288 police costs saved.

Please provide any communications with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime and/or the Deputy Mayor for Policing discussing the merits of Met Trace and/or the advisability of expanding or not expanding the programme.

Communication is currently taking place with the MPS Management Board and MOPAC regarding the potential for a further/continuation of the project. This is ongoing and no decisions have been made. As these communications include discussions in relation to a new tender they are considered to be commercially sensitive by the MPS. This information is therefore exempt from disclosure.
Section 43(2) - Commercial Interests -

Provides that any information is exempt if it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person. I have claimed Section 43(2) of the Act in that some of the information held by the MPS is commercially sensitive to the MPS and third parties.

The MPS is accountable to the general public for the way in which it spends public funds. The disclosure of the requested information would allow the general public, alongside other information, to consider the value of MetTrace kits.

The MPS is to tender for a new MetTrace contract. To release the cost of an individual MetTrace kit and/or the overall MetTrace budget, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the MPS and the current provider of MetTrace kits. This would occur as release of the cost of an individual MetTrace kit would provide those involved in the tender process, with sensitive information about a competitor's product. Its release would also adversely affect the current MetTrace contract holder in any future tender process. In addition, release of communications between the MPS and MOPAC would prejudice the ability of the MPS to achieve the best value in the tender process for a new MetTrace contract, contrary to the public interest.

In this case, the disclosure of any communications between MOPAC and the MPS in relation to expanding, or not expanding the MetTrace water programme (when a decision has not yet been reached), and the release of the current and future costs of individual MetTrace kits, would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the current provider of MetTrace kits. Release of this information would also be likely to prejudice the ability of the MPS to achieve the best value in the tender process for a new MetTrace contract.

Having carefully considered the public interest, I believe that it would be improper of the MPS to release information that would be harmful to the commercial interests of the MPS and third parties, unless an 'exceptional' public interest is present. Having considered this, I do not believe there is an 'exceptional' public interest in releasing the requested commercially sensitive information. On balance, having reviewed the requested information, I have found that the public interest lies in favour of protecting the commercial interests of the MPS, and the
commercial interests of the current MetTrace contract holder, as well as those of any organisation or service which might tender a request to the MPS.

DUTY TO ADVISE AND ASSIST

I have located the following article which may be of interest to you: https://www.smartwater.com/news/press-release-mettrace-year-one-results/

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in the Metropolitan Police Service.

Information Rights Unit