

**Freedom of Information Request Reference No:**

I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) Please provide a copy of guidance held by your force on how your force deals with offering rewards for information. This might include guidance on how to offer rewards, and when it is appropriate to do so.
- 2) In each of the last five financial years, please provide the number of occasions your force has offered a reward for information. For each reward offered, please provide the amount, the Home Office offence code of the offence the reward offer was made in response to, the age and ethnicity of the victim/s, and if possible within the cost limit, the free text description of the reason for the reward in your database.
- 3) In each of the last five financial years, please provide the number of occasion's money was paid out for information provided in response to a reward offer, and the amount paid in each case.

**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).

**REASONS FOR DECISION**

In response to **Question 1** I have applied section 31  
In response to **Question 3** I have applied Sections 30 and 40.

This information has therefore been fully exempted pursuant to the provisions of Section's 30(1)(a) 31(1) and 40(2)(3) of the Act.

**Section 30 - Investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities**

The prevention and detection of crime is the foundation upon which policing is built and the police have a clear responsibility to prevent crime, arrest those responsible for committing crime or those that plan to commit crime.

The MPS does not generally disclose information from investigations except through our Directorate of Media & Communication to the media. This is so potential witnesses are not discouraged to come forward and provide statements in relation to investigations.

The manner in which investigations are conducted is usually kept in strict secrecy so that the tactics and lines of enquiry that are followed do not become public knowledge thereby rendering them useless.

The MPS is charged with enforcing the law and preventing and detecting crime. Any information released under the Act which reveals investigative strategies and processes would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Care must be taken to not compromise any strand of an investigation or cause any undue harm to any people or families involved.

The MPS has a duty to protect both witnesses and suspects of criminal investigations and the integrity of tried and tested investigative techniques used now and for future criminal investigations. Therefore, I consider that considerations favouring non-disclosure of the requested information far outweighs the considerations favouring disclosure.

The disclosure of this information to the public by the MPS would undermine individuals' confidence in helping the MPS with investigations, thereby reducing the quality of information the MPS receives and consequently compromising the effectiveness of any investigation.

The disclosure of this information to the public by the MPS would inhibit the flow of free and frank discussion, sharing of advice and best practices for investigations between police services. Anything that undermines this would have a detrimental effect on the thoroughness, efficiency and effectiveness of police investigations and ultimately the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

### **Section 31 - Law Enforcement:**

1. Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice-
  - (a) the prevention or detection of crime,
  - (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders,
  - (c) the administration of justice,

The MPS is charged with enforcing the law and preventing and detecting crime. This information is likely to be of great benefit to criminals. Any information released under the Act which reveals information that could result in potential suspects evading justice, this would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Disclosure would technically be releasing information into the public domain which would enable those with the capacity and inclination to try and use the information to commit crime.

## **Section 40 (2) & (3) - Personal Information**

Under Section 40(2) and (3) of the Act, Public Authorities are able to withhold information where its release would identify any living individual and breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA).

When this exemption is applied, it is accepted that harm would result from disclosure.

There is accordingly no requirement to consider whether release of information is in the public interest or demonstrate what harm would result from disclosure.

I consider that considerations favouring non-disclosure of the requested information far outweighs the considerations favouring disclosure.

## **DISCLOSURE**

### **Question 2**

The 'Amount Spent on Obtaining Information to Combat Crime,' is accessed via attached link.

[https://beta.met.police.uk/globalassets/foi-media/what\\_we\\_spend/corporate/specialist-crime--operations---amount-spent-on-obtaining-information-from-informant---201607](https://beta.met.police.uk/globalassets/foi-media/what_we_spend/corporate/specialist-crime--operations---amount-spent-on-obtaining-information-from-informant---201607)

I would like to thank you for your interest in the MPS.

**Information Rights Unit**