

**Date:** 17 August 2020  
**Our Reference:** FOIA-2020-075

## **RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request**

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or 'FoIA 2000') request dated 18 July 2020 relating to the report by Sir Richard Henriques and seeking information covering how the following recommendations have been embedded in police practice and documentation: 1-5, 13-16 and 25.

When a request for information is made under FoIA 2000, a public authority has a general duty under section 1(1) of the Act to inform an applicant whether the requested information is held. There is then a general obligation to communicate that information to the applicant. If a public authority decides that the information should not be disclosed because an exemption applies, it must, under section 17(1) cite the appropriate section or exemption of the Act and provide an explanation for relying upon it.

## **Decision**

After conducting careful searches for any information relevant to your request I can confirm that there is information held covering how some of the recommendations have been embedded in police practice and documentation and this information has been provided below.

Recommendation 1 was not accepted. A review was carried out in 2018 for the College of Policing into the terminology used to guide police when an allegation of crime is made.

Recommendation 2 was partially accepted. In 2019 the College of Policing wrote to the Home Office to suggest additional wording be added to the Home Office's National Crime Recording

Standard (NCRS). It now states 'The Standard directs a victim focused approach to crime recording. The intention is that victims are believed and benefit from statutory entitlements under the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime (CPVC). This seeks to ensure that those reporting crimes will be treated with empathy and their allegations will be taken seriously. Any investigation which follows is then taken forward with an open mind to establish the truth.'

Recommendation 3 was accepted as consistent with current guidance.

Recommendation 4 was accepted as consistent with investigators' training.

Recommendation 5 was accepted. The existing checklist in Operation Hydarnt advice was drawn up to assist officers and staff dealing with non-recent cases involving high profile people or institutions.

Recommendation 13 was accepted as being the legal position.

Recommendation 14 was accepted. The National Policing Lead for police bail released guidance to forces about the management of police bail, including the need to keep suspects updated about the progress of their cases.

Recommendation 15 was partially accepted. Guidance issued by the National Policing Lead for police bail suggests time limits for investigations. The legal position is that there are time limits for people on police bail but not for those released under investigation. It is for forces to manage investigations.

In addition to the above, the updated Operation Hydrant SIO advice was published earlier this month and reflects some of the changes that came into place following the review. This can be accessed on our website here: <https://www.college.police.uk/News/College-news/Documents/SIO%20advice%20August%202020.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

**Information Management and Legal Team**

## **College of Policing**

Email: [FOI@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FOI@college.pnn.police.uk)

Website: [www.college.police.uk](http://www.college.police.uk)

## **Appendix A**

### **Rights**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the College of Policing made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can request that the decision is reviewed internally.

Internal review requests should be made in writing, within **forty (40) working days** from the date of the refusal notice, and addressed to: FOI team, Central House, Beckwith Knowle, Otley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UF or email: [FOI@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FOI@college.pnn.police.uk)

In all possible circumstances the College of Policing will aim to respond to your request for internal review within **20 working days**.

#### **The Information Commissioner**

If, after lodging an internal review request with the College of Policing you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>.

Alternatively, write to:

**Information Commissioner's Office**

**Wycliffe House**

**Water Lane**

**Wilmslow**

**Cheshire**

**SK9 5AF**

**Phone: 0303 123 1113**