

## **REQUEST**

Hi there,

I wish to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, that you supply me with:

Since announcing Sadiq Khan pledged £15 million funding to tackle knife crime, how much of the £15 million has been spent, and what has it been spent on?

### **Public Interest**

I believe there is a strong public interest in releasing this information since it will promote greater transparency in government and greater accountability in the conduct of those who hold public office.

The information requested is not reasonably accessible by other means to the best of my knowledge.

### **Commercial interests**

I do not believe that any of the information I have requested is exempt from disclosure as a result of the exemption provided by section 43 of the Act. However, should you judge that parts of the material requested would come under this exemption, I request that you *redact the relevant sections* and release the documents in their entirety.

For example, should you believe that the identification of suppliers that may result from disclosing the invoices received would prejudice that company's commercial interests, then I request that you redact the details of the supplier from the documents you release.

### **Confidentiality issues**

Exemptions on the 'information being provided in confidence' do not apply. The Information Commissioner advises, "information which is protected from disclosure by an obligation of confidence must have the necessary 'quality of confidence'" (*Freedom of Information Act Awareness Guidance No 2*).

Where it is considered that under the FOI Act certain parts of documents requested breach confidentiality issues, I would request that these sections be redacted and the documents be released in their entirety.

Redacting personal information is a common practice - It is not acceptable to refuse to release a document simply because it contains elements of personal information that could be redacted.

### **Data protection issues.**

I am not requesting personal information. Where necessary personal details may be redacted from any documents that you release.

Redacting personal information is a common practice - It is not acceptable to refuse to release a document simply because it contains elements of personal information that could be redacted.

## **Processing of these requests**

I would like to receive this information by email, sent to:

[ellielucymarshall1991@gmail.com](mailto:ellielucymarshall1991@gmail.com)

Further to section 16 of the FOI Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), if you have any queries relating to these requests or need clarification on any issue, I would be grateful if you could contact me [ellielucymarshall1991@gmail.com](mailto:ellielucymarshall1991@gmail.com)

I would like to request that any refusal to any part of the above requests (including on cost grounds) be accompanied by a recommendation of how the request may be modified so as to be granted.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this email and provide me with FOI reference number(s) as soon as possible.

With thanks,

## **RESPONSE**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 25 March to the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC). I confirm that your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that MOPAC does hold information relating to your request. I apologise for the delay in replying to you.

Despite the government cuts, the Mayor has established a Violent Crime Task Force (VCTF) and is providing £15 million annually to support its operation. The taskforce will enable the MPS to be even more proactive on the streets of the capital, bearing down on violent crime and serious criminality. Violence is still at very serious levels, but this May the VCTF command carried out 203 weapon sweeps, seized 7 firearms, recovered 30 knives and 24 offensive weapons. In addition, VCTF officers have made 150 arrests, including 30 for weapon and knife offences.

However the Mayor also funds preventative initiatives. The Mayor has committed £6.8 million to fund the new Violence Reduction Unit (VRU). The VRU includes specialists in health, youth and social services to lead a long-term public health approach to tackle the causes of violent crime. The VRU will look to build on Glasgow's success, scaling up an approach that has worked in a city with a population of 600,000 people to a capital with nearly 9 million. The Mayor and his team have spent several months researching the experience in Glasgow, where a public health approach has led to large reductions in serious violence over the past decade.

A further £3.5 million will be spent on other anti-violence initiatives, for example making the successful 'Information Sharing to Tackle Violence' pilot permanent. This develops more effective data sharing and uses data from A&E departments to develop strategies to tackle violence.

If you are unhappy with the response to your Freedom of Information request, please see the MOPAC website on what the next steps are at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/governance-and-decision-making/freedom-information>