

Official Sensitive



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Information Rights Unit  
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Web: [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)  
Email: [MPSDDataOffice@met.police.uk](mailto:MPSDDataOffice@met.police.uk)

**Our Ref: 01/FOI/20/015381**

**Date: 19 August 2020**

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01FOI/20/015381**

Thank you for your request for information which was received by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on 06 August 2020, seeking access to the following information:

*I have recently read the report of Operation Yewtree, and what is never clarified is what the Metropolitan Police knows about those who knew of Jimmy Saville's sexual abuse in the past, if anyone. Therefore I would like to ask the MPS what information they have on this issue; particularly with regards to the BBC, the NHS, the Department of Education at the time of Saville's abuse (whom maintained Duncroft School), the police forces in Surrey, Sussex, and Jersey that investigated, but never charged him.*

When a request for information is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act), a public authority must inform you, when permitted, whether the information requested is held. It must then communicate that information to you. If a public authority decides that it cannot comply with all or part of a request, it must cite the appropriate section or exemption of the Act and provide you with an explanation.

**SEARCHES TO LOCATE INFORMATION**

To locate the information relevant to your request, searches were conducted within the MPS.

**DECISION**

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This letter is to inform you that it will not be possible to respond to your request within the cost threshold. This response serves as a Refusal Notice under Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act). Please see the legal annex for further information on the exemptions applied in respect of your request.

Please also note that when one part of a request is refused because the cost of completing that part of the request would exceed the appropriate limit, this results in the refusal of the request in its entirety. This approach is in line with the guidance of the Information Commissioner (the Freedom of Information Act Ombudsman).

### **REASON FOR DECISION**

#### **Section 12(2) - Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, public authorities are not required to comply with a request for information if the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

The appropriate limit has been specified in regulations and for agencies outside central Government, this is set at £450.00. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours [at a rate of £25 per hour] in determining whether the MPS holds the information and then locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

Your request seeks to find out what information the MPS has on the issue of Jimmy Saville's sexual abuse regarding the BBC, NHS, Department of Education, police forces in Surrey, Sussex and Jersey that investigated but never charged him.

We regret to advise that this information is not kept in a readily available format and any attempt to identify whether it is held, would involve manual, comprehensive research of case notes, statements and other material to establish if the information requested is actually held. We therefore estimate that the cost of complying with this request would exceed the appropriate limit.

### **DUTY TO ADVISE & ASSIST**

Under Section 16 of the Act, there is a duty to advise and assist applicants in making requests for information. In accordance with this duty, I have provided several links below of information already in the public domain, which you may find of interest:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/jimmy-savile-report-bbc-bosses-child-sex-abuse-evidence-a6894936.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-19946626>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-and-department-of-health-investigations-into-jimmy-savile>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/jimmy-savile-nhs-investigations-response-to-lessons-learnt-report>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-31640591>

## **Official Sensitive**

This concludes your request for information and I would like to thank you for your interest in the MPS.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please contact me via the above email address, quoting the reference number above.

Kind regards,

**Suzanne Mason**  
**Information Manager**

**LEGAL ANNEX**

**Section 17(5) of the Act provides:**

*(5) A public authority which, in relation to any request for information, is relying on a claim that section 12 or 14 applies must, within the time for complying with section 1(1), give the applicant a notice stating that fact.*

**Section 12(2) of the Act provides:**

*Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.*

**Section 16 of the Act provides:**

*(1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.*

*(2) Any public authority which, in relation to the provision of advice or assistance in any case, conforms with the code of practice under section 45 is to be taken to comply with the duty imposed by subsection (1) in relation to that case.*

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### **COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

**Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?**

You have the right to require the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome to discuss the response with the case officer who dealt with your request.

#### **Complaint**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the MPS made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can lodge a complaint with the MPS to have the decision reviewed.

Complaints should be made in writing, within forty (40) working days from the date of the refusal notice, and addressed to:

FOI Complaint  
Information Rights Unit  
PO Box 57192  
London  
SW6 1SF  
foi@met.police.uk

In all possible circumstances the MPS will aim to respond to your complaint within 20 working days.

#### **The Information Commissioner**

After lodging a complaint with the MPS if 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 [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). Alternatively, write to or phone:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Phone: 0303 123 1113