

29th July 2013

I write following your FOI request dated 29.6.13 in which you request;

I have recently returned from annual leave to the very sad news that the Chief Constable feels it necessary to divest Cleveland Police of its mounted section under the disguise of saving money in these difficult times.

The questions I request you to answer under the Freedom of Information Act are:

- 1. What is the cost of keeping a police horse per annum compared to the per annum cost of maintaining a police patrol car.*
- 2. Have Cleveland Police Horses been used to support events in Sunderland and Newcastle in the last 2 years and has the cost of this provision been paid? I request site of invoices and payment*
- 3. If the Horses have been used in Newcastle and Sunderland how do you expect the Northumbria horse section to support the needs of Middlesbrough. Please demonstrate your demand and capacity analysis if this is the case.*
- 4. Where is the next mounted police which you intend to 'hire in'? If its West Yorkshire What is the cost? and surely there is a cost included in travel and ultimately overtime for the West Yorkshire Police travel times etc. Often at weekend rates. Please provide a breakdown of these costs. Also demonstrate this is less than the projected savings from losing our own mounted division.*
- 5. Were the Cleveland police horses used for national events such as the Olympics?. If so what was the cost of this and can you demonstrate payment of the service to the local population i.e. the taxpayer. Please provide details.*
- 6. I request a detailed breakdown of the savings to be made by removing the Cleveland Police Horses. Including the cost and rental contract of the stables at Ormseby Hall (Is the contract now due for renewal ?or will you still be paying for it empty!) What is the cost?*
- 7. The Police Officers who are currently with horse section. Please provide details of the savings (costs) to be made because of redundancy, redeployment etc and please include the contribution of any voluntary 'hands.'*
- 8. I request a total breakdown of the cost of the Cleveland mounted section and a copy of their rotas and activity for the last two years*

*In summary I came to Middlesbrough in 1990 and the Cleveland Police Force have changed the landscape during my time here and I am proud **NOW** to live here. However working in the public sector I know this decision to divest ourselves of the police horses is completely wrong and the cynical side of me wonders whether the decision is a personal decision based on the fact that our (yes our Cleveland) police horses are a real success of a previous Police Constable and not one the new Police Constable can accept.*

I read in the local newspaper that I was not to be sentimental. That really is an insult to the intelligence of the local population.

If Cleveland Police really wants to save money I would suggest that they invest in technology and stop using the hand written notes which are often of such a poor quality that even the officer has difficulty making sense of them in the magistrates court.

I look forward to your response within 28 days on the FIO questions and also to the public consultation which I have difficulty finding details of. I will forward this e mail to the Evening Gazette as I want to have my opinions heard

This request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The comments you have made have been noted and passed to the Commissioner, this is being collated with other letters and communications the Commissioner has received on this subject.

Regarding your Freedom of Information request I can now inform you that I have completed my enquiries and that my reply on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland is as follows.

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland does not hold this information.

When refusing a request there is a duty placed upon me to assist where I can in sourcing the information you request. On this occasion I can inform you that the holder of this information is Cleveland Police. I have forwarded to them a copy of your request.

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland has a complaints procedure.

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review by writing to:

Chief of Staff
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland
Police Headquarters
Ladgate Lane
Middlesbrough
TS8 9EH

or you can follow the complaints procedure found on our website at:

www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk

If you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Telephone: 08456 30 60 60 or 01625 54 57 45 Website: www.ico.gov.uk

There is no charge for making an appeal.

John Bage
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland