

14<sup>th</sup> June 2013

I write following your FOI request dated 17.5.13 in which you request;

*With reference to the police helicopter which Cleveland Police still operate under NPAS at DTV Airport.*

*I heard it arriving towards my house tonight at 23.02. As usual I stepped on to the drive to record its activities following previous advice from officers on recording its activities over my property.*

*It flew low slowly over my house from west to east, before turning to point directly towards my house, where it sat for a minute 500m behind my house hovering over the rear field.*

*From my experience of flying for the police in the past, I would say the crew were either just being nosey or one of the crew was being line checked for his yearly exam, and my house was the target for the test.*

*The crew moved off to the east as soon as they realised that I was recording their usual low level behaviour.*

*I thought that this type of behaviour would have stopped following my previous email and letter, and I was informed that the helicopter was now tracked by gps in the last report?*

*Could you ask Mrs Cheer if she could find out why my house is still being targeted by the police helicopter crews?*

*The radar tape from DTV Airport will show that the exact height of the helicopter as it arrived over my house. From my own estimation it was approximately 350 - 400ft above ground level, which is very low for night time police operations. The PAOM also states police helicopters should not operate below 600ft at night. The weather was clear at the time, so the cloud base was not the reason for operating so low.*

*If the helicopter is actually now being tracked by your own police mapping systems, the ground level at my location is 266ft above sea level.*

*The GPS mapping systems will show the very low heights being flown near my house.*

*Most GPS tracking systems will show heights in terms of above sea level!. If the helicopter showed 600ft asl on any tracking system, it will have actually been less than 400ft above my drive.(above ground level).*

*I'm sure Cleveland Police have enough to think about with the current press climate without my raising my concerns over the ongoing harassment to the IPCC and the press. I'm also sure Cleveland Police and the other forces don't want me to bring my previous concerns over what happened at the air support unit while I worked there.*

*I'm also raising this latest incident with my MP, and have a video recording of the latest slow orbit low level over my house again.*

*Could you tell me if the police helicopter staff currently based at DTV are under the Chief Constables supervision, or do I need to ask Tom Blenkinsop to raise this matter with Mrs May at the Home Office on my behalf, to put a stop to this police harassment?*

*I would like to request the reason for the latest low orbit around my house tonight at 23.02 under a FOI, request details of the crew and their reason for orbiting my property and then positioning the helicopter so close to the rear of my property again? (16th May 2013).*

*Am I under police surveillance under a RIPA authority, or are the police crews just being a nuisance?*

*Thanking you in advance for your assistance.*

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

Regarding your 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.

Under s16 of the FOI Act, we have a duty to provide advice to assist you in your FOI request, in this instance since April 2013 the Air Support Unit for Cleveland Police came under the direct control of the National Police Air Service.

The National Police Air Service's Lead Force is West Yorkshire Police and they may be contacted via [foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk)

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](http://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](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

There is no charge for making an appeal.

John Bage  
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland