

10th April 2015

I write following your FOI request in which you request;

It has been well publicised through local media that you sit on the board for NPAS and did so during the decision making process to review base closures/coverage.

As PCC for Cleveland Police can you please advise me of the following, which were no doubt considered before you voted in favour of the cuts;

- 1. What is the national target for emergency response times for NPAS, is it still 25 minutes?*
- 2. What is the current response time by our existing Air Support for emergency incidents?
(Times based pre-flight briefing, take off and arrival scene?)*
- 3. What have the calculations that have been presented to support the proposal to cut bases, namely the Durham Tees Valley one, for emergency response times?
(Times based on pre-flight briefing, take off and arrival at scene?)*
- 4. How long can the current Air Support Unit based at Durham Tees Valley remain in the air before refuelling?*
- 5. What are the project response times that have been calculated for attending emergency incidents in the furthest geographical location within the Cleveland Force Area?*
- 6. If calculations have not been considered, why not?*
- 7. What is the annual cost of having Air Support based at Durham Tees Valley for Cleveland Police?*
- 8. What would the projected saving be for Cleveland Police by closure of this base at Durham Tees Valley?*

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

The Freedom of Information Act informs that there is a general right of access to information held by public authorities.

The Act states that:

- (1) Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled-
 - (a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
 - (b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.

Therefore 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.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland may hold some of the information you request.

For question 5, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does hold some partial information you seek.

You asked "*What are the project response times that have been calculated for attending emergency incidents in the furthest geographical location within the Cleveland Force Area?*"

The recorded information the Office of the Police and crime Commissioner holds is that the estimated response times provided by NPAS from the Newcastle base to Cleveland is calculated at 20-22 minutes.

For question 7 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner may hold some of the information you seek.

You asked, "*What is the annual cost of having Air Support based at Durham Tees Valley for Cleveland Police?*". To be specific, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does not hold the information to answer your exact question. However s16 of the FOIA informs that it is good practice for me to provide advice and assistance to you, when seeking the answers to your query.

In that vein, Cleveland, currently contributes annually £1,400k towards the provision of the National Police Air Service. This contribution is not specifically for Durham Tees Valley, hence why I cannot answer your specific query. It is a

contribution towards the whole UK provision of Police Air Services and should not be taken as Cleveland's contribution to the Durham Tees Valley base.

For questions 1 – 4, 6 and 8 I can inform you that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland does not hold this information.

As stated above s16 of the FOIA requires me to assist you in pursuing the information you seek. Therefore I advise that as West Yorkshire Police administer the National Police Air Service on behalf of the UK, may I respectfully suggest you seek such information from;

<http://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/contact-us/requesting-information/freedom-information/freedom-information-request>

or by post to:

Freedom of Information
PO Box 9
Laburnum Road
Wakefield
WF1 3QP

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

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

Mr Simon Dennis, Solicitor
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.