



Heddlu Police

DYFED-POWYS

FOI Reference: 53/2021

Request:

Do you hold the following information?

Request relates to the number of police officers that have contracted COVID-19 since March 2020. Specifically, I would like the following information:

1. How many police officers have contracted COVID-19 since March 1st 2020? I would like this information broken down by month from March 1st 2020, up to and including today's date. If data has not been included up to and including today's date, please provide me with data starting from March 1st 2020, to the latest date where data is available.
2. Of the number of police officers that have contracted COVID-19 since March 1st 2020, how many of them had to take a period of sick leave that lasted over 14 days as a result?

Response 1:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, however a Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement exemption has been applied to part of the requested information thereby exempting its release.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1) (a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1) (b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Where exemptions are relied upon section 17 of FOIA requires that we provide the applicant with a notice which:

- a) States that fact
- b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- c) State (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies

Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement:

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to prejudice -

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime*
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders*

Section 31 is a prejudice based qualified exemption and as such there is a requirement to provide details of the harm as well as the public interest test.

Harm in Disclosure

The release of the most recent data, i.e. December 2020 – February 2021, has the potential to be harmful to state current numbers of officers who have contracted COVID19. Disclosure risks building a

wider picture, exposing police forces experiencing the highest levels of impact and vulnerability because of diminished capability, which in turn could provide positive intelligence to the criminal fraternity.

Public Interest Test:

Considerations favouring disclosure:

To disclose the information would allow better public awareness, openness and transparency.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure:

By not disclosing the information masks numbers for any force experiencing high numbers of police officers having recently contracted the virus. To disclose the information would undermine law enforcement and provide those persons intent on committing crime intelligence on those forces which are vulnerable during this time. To provide the information would jeopardise the ability of the police to carry out their duty. Disclosure would undermine policing and have a negative effect on the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

Balance Test

The police service is tasked with protecting the community and solving crime and should not disclose information that would jeopardise this. By disclosing the requested information could compromise policing and provide intelligence to the criminal fraternity which would allow a picture to be built on those forces with diminished capability. It is, therefore, decided that this information will not be provided.

Month	Total number of police officers who have tested positive for Coronavirus
March 2020	0
April 2020	1
May 2020	1
June 2020	0
July 2020	0
August 2020	0
September 2020	1
October 2020	5
November 2020	9
December 2020	<i>Section 31 applies</i>
January 2021	<i>Section 31 applies</i>
February 2021	<i>Section 31 applies</i>

Response 2:

I can confirm that Dyfed-Powys Police does hold the information requested, as outlined below.

	Total number of police officers who have tested positive for Coronavirus and took a period of sick leave that lasted over 14 days.
01/03/2020 – 24/01/2021	27

It should be noted that as a result of the systems adopted by Dyfed-Powys Police in relation to the recording of such information that the information released may or may not be accurate.