

Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Decision notice

Date: 10 September 2015

Public Authority: Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service

Address: New Scotland Yard
London
SW1H 0BG

Decision (including any steps ordered)

1. The complainant has requested information relating to protesters outside the GP clinic on Colombo Street, Southwark.
2. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) failed to respond to this request for information and the Commissioner's decision is that in doing so the MPS breached sections 1(1) and 10(1) of the FOIA.
3. The Commissioner requires the MPS to take the following steps to ensure compliance with the legislation.
 - Respond to the request.
4. The MPS must take these steps within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of the FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

Request and response

5. On 9 February 2015, the MPS received a request from the complainant requesting information in the following terms:

"any correspondence regarding the protesters outside the GP clinic on Colombo Street, Southwark, from August 2014-present

I am willing to come in and inspect the record".

6. At the time of writing the MPS had failed to respond substantively to the request.

Scope of the case

7. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on the 10 June 2015 to complain about the failure of the MPS to respond to her request.

Reasons for decision

8. Section 1(1) of the FOIA states that an individual who asks for information is entitled to be informed whether the information is held and, if the information is held, to have that information communicated to them.
9. Section 10(1) of the FOIA states that a public authority must respond to a request promptly and "no later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt".
10. In this case the MPS has breached sections 1(1) and 10(1) by failing to respond to the request within 20 working days.

Right of appeal

11. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0300 1234504

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: GRC@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber>

12. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
13. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

Signed

Jon Manners
Group Manager

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