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02/05/2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 144/2023

Thank you for your request for information regarding ACRO deletions, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

Please can I make an application for information under the Freedom of Information Act? The information I seek all relates to ACRO, and requests made for the deletion of data.

For each year from 2010 until present, please can you tell me:

1. How many requests were made for the deletion of data from ACRO?
2. Of the answer to Q1, how many requests for deletion were granted (either in full or in part)?
3. Of the answer to Q1, how many requests for deletion were rejected (either in full or in part)?
4. Of the answer to Q1, how many requests for deletion required the provision of further information?

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does hold information captured by your request and I have pleasure in providing the following:

- 1) Please see the attached spreadsheet – Table 1. This confirms the total number of applications received by ACRO under the Record Deletion Process.
- 2) Please see the attached spreadsheet – Table 1. This confirms the total number of applications which were eligible to be sent to the owning force for review and, which were either fully agreed or partially agreed.
- 3) Please see the attached spreadsheet – Table 1. This confirms the total number of applications which were eligible to be sent to the owning force for review and, which were not agreed for deletion.
- 4) Unable to confirm this without interrogating the case files where an eligible request was sent to force and a decision received (11,082) which would exceed cost but, would also not be possible due to the older case files being weeded after 24 months following the date of a decision.



The NPCC has a legal obligation to try and advise and assist you further with your request; for more information on the legislation please see Annex A.

In wishing to assist you, for clarity and context, ACRO have provided the following caveats:

Caveat 1: The information provided covers from 01/05/2015 – 28/04/2023. 01/05/2015 is when the Record Deletion Process commenced.

Caveat 2: Please note that the figures are accurate as of today only as ACRO are regularly receiving decisions on outstanding requests from police forces.

Caveat 3: The figures provided in Table 2 of the spreadsheet are cases where an application for deletion was in respect of a *caution/warning or reprimand*. We do not capture statistics solely in respect of caution outcomes as a standalone disposal.

Caveat 4: Further to Caveat 3 - we delete Record Deletion case files once 24 months have elapsed from the date of a decision therefore, we would not be able to verify the above in a large number of those cases as we no longer hold the application details. For those records which have not weeded, there are approximately 1166 individual case files for records where a caution/warning/reprimand was subject of the record deletion request (and which, the force either approved or refused) which we would need to review to elicit the data specifically in respect of whether the disposal was a caution. It would take approximately 3 minutes per case file which would equate to approximately 58 hours thus exceeding the threshold for cost.

Caveat 5: Table 1 provides the figures of those cases which were not eligible for review under the process. For a request to be considered Not Eligible it falls in to one of the following categories:

- Request for deletion is for a court conviction of guilty outcome at court.
- Request for deletion is for an impending prosecution which the force has confirmed is an ongoing investigation
- Request for deletion is a data dispute (not dealt with under the RDP) regarding UK police data or foreign offence data.
- Request for deletion is for a record owned by a Police Force not in England and Wales (e.g. Police Scotland)
- Request for deletion is for local police records and the applicant does not have a PNC record.
- Applicant failed to respond to ACRO for request for information (e.g. proof of identity)

Sherry Traquair

NPCC Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 20 working days of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with NPCC, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Annex A

Legislation – Section 16

- (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.