

S.40(2)

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Sent: 15 January 2024 11:54
To: S.40(2)
Subject: RE: advice 1480/24

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Hi S.40(2)

CRU 1480/23.

Apologies for any delays.

Applicants Request

I would be grateful if you would treat the following correspondence as a request for disclosure of the following information, under Freedom of Information law (Fol).

Description of information sought:

1. The number of Threats to Life Warning Notices and Threats to Life Disruption Notices – commonly referred to as “Osman warnings” – that the force issued in connection to Operation Satchel/WSCB REFERENCE: SCR W6 by/as at 13 November 2023

I ask because S.40(2), Senior Case Officer at the Information Commissioner’s Office, recorded in the decision notice ICO Case Reference IC-260356-D0H7: “The public authority [NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board] has stated it ‘has been made aware by the West Midlands Police and other partners, that threats of intimidation, violence and death have been aimed at those directly involved in this case, including staff and professionals.’”

Your comments

Operation Satchel was a high profile case within West Midlands. Please see Link in news:

[Final four defendants jailed for their part in the largest child sexual abuse prosecution in the West Midlands | The Crown Prosecution Service \(cps.gov.uk\)](#)

Further we have the following info in relation to this.

S.31(1), S.40(1)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

S.31(1)

CRU Advice

Thank you for the information provided. Whilst forces have previously released the number of Osman warnings at an annual, whole force level previously, this current request concerns a specific operation. Regardless as to whether information is or isn't held on this occasion, my initial thoughts are that, for the sake of consistency when responding to any future requests of this nature I would advise NCND s31(3), 38(2) and s40(5). This consistency is not only relevant to WMP, but across all forces. The mosaic effect of mixed responses nationally by operations would risk revealing where and who might be under threat, and where the police were not aware of such. Investigations into organised crime routinely crosses borders and force areas and the only way to safeguard the intelligence picture is to maintain consistency within FOI responses.

Only in the event that there is formal acknowledgement of WMP issuing Osman warnings would that position alter. And like you point out, whilst the NHS Black Country Care Board might have included a [comment to the ICO](#), that in itself would not constitute confirmation of WMP issuing a warning.

You'll note I haven't included s23(3) into the NCND. This is because the request doesn't concern any source of threat information into WMP, and only concerns statistics.

I trust that helps, but please let us know if we can assist further.

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)

National Police Chiefs' Council

E | S.31(1)

W | www.npcc.police.uk