

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
To: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU ref 25/004801 PSNI ref [FOI/167]
Date: 03 June 2025 10:30:00
Attachments: image003.jpg
image004.png
image005.png

Morning S.40(2),

Many thanks for the update S.31(1)

I will hopefully have further correspondence from stakeholders by the end of the week.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

Deputy Manager

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit (NPFDU)

National Police Chiefs' Council

S.31(1)

(NB S.40(2))



From: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk <zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk>

Sent: 30 May 2025 14:56

To: S.31(1)

Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU ref 25/004801 PSNI ref [FOI/167]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

H S.40(2)

I am just providing you with an update on our IR re FOI/167 S.40(2) We will only be reviewing our response to questions 7 and 9. On our initial review we will be upholding our original decision however after talking to relevant record owners within PSNI (C3) they would like our legal services branch to have a look at how we use NCND.

In the meantime can you check with stakeholders that they would be happy with the original stance around the original NCND.

Regards,

S.40(2)

T/Staff Officer | Corporate Information Branch
Operations Support Department

S.31(1)

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 65 Knock Road Belfast • BT5 6LE

Macintosh HD:Users:marion:Desktop:Email Signature Image alt-01.jpg

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.40(2)

Sent: 06 May 2025 09:08

To: zCorporateInfoBranch <zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [POLICE]: [FOI/167]

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Morning S.40(2)

Just following up on this case, we note we are waiting your draft for further review. Should you require any additional assistance please forward any applicant comment with regards the IR request.

We will wait to hear further in due course.

Kind regards
S.40(2)
Deputy Manager
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs' Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

S.40(2)



From: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk <zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk>
Sent: 30 April 2025 17:28
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)
Subject: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [POLICE]: [FOI/167]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [POLICE]. This email contains sensitive information. Do not disclose or disseminate to others without firstly seeking permission from the originator. If authority to share has been agreed, it must only be shared via a trusted Police network.

Log Number: 977/24

Good afternoon S.40(2)

PSNI are writing to advise that we have received a request for an internal review of our response to this request.

We will provide any updates prior to any release to share and advise the stakeholders.

Thanks.

S.40(2)

T/Deputy Principal | Corporate Information Branch

Operations Support Department

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 65 Knock Road Belfast • BT5 6LE

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From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
To: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU ref 25/004801 PSNI ref [FOI/167]
Date: 09 June 2025 13:26:00
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.jpg

Good afternoon S.40(2),

I have engaged with stakeholders and no concerns have been raised over the continuing use of NCND. Sight of your final draft response has been requested so would be appreciated please.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

Deputy Manager

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit (NPFDU)

National Police Chiefs' Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

S.40(2)



From: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk <zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk>
Sent: 30 May 2025 14:56
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)
Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU ref 25/004801 PSNI ref [FOI/167]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Hi S.40(2),

I am just providing you with an update on our IR re FOI/167 S.40(2). We will only be reviewing our response to questions 7 and 9. On our initial review we will be upholding our original decision however after talking to relevant record owners within PSNI (C3) they would like our legal services branch to have a look at how we use NCND.

In the meantime can you check with stakeholders that they would be happy with the original stance around the original NCND.

Regards,

S.40(2)

T/Staff Officer | Corporate Information Branch
Operations Support Department

S.31(1)

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 65 Knock Road Belfast • BT5 6LE

Macintosh HD:Users:marion:Desktop:Email Signature Image alt-01.jpg



From: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.40(2)
Sent: 06 May 2025 09:08
To: zCorporateInfoBranch S.40(2)
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [POLICE]: [FOI/167]

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Morning S.40(2)

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We will wait to hear further in due course.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

Deputy Manager

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit (NPFDU)

National Police Chiefs' Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS



S.31(1)

S.40(2)



From: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk <zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk>

Sent: 30 April 2025 17:28

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)

Subject: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [POLICE]: [FOI/167]

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Log Number: 977/24

Good afternoon S.40(2)

PSNI are writing to advise that we have received a request for an internal review of our response to this request.

We will provide any updates prior to any release to share and advise the stakeholders.

Thanks.

S.40(2)

T/Deputy Principal | Corporate Information Branch

Operations Support Department

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 65 Knock Road Belfast • BT5 6LE

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From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
To: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/004852/T - Request logged - Advice to Follow
Date: 16 June 2025 07:23:00
Attachments: 14717 Regarding Weeks of Action.pdf
image001.png
image002.png
image003.png

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE
POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Good morning S.40(2),
Thank you for your email and sight of your draft.
We have no concerns on a NIH response here and content for you to proceed.
Kind regards
S.40(2)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council
NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

* Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

S.40(2)

From: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk
Sent: 13 June 2025 12:27
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/004852/T - Request logged - Advice to Follow
This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good afternoon
Please see the NIH response we propose to release in regards to 01/CRF/25/004852/T.
Thank you

S.40(2)

Corporate Information Branch

From: zCorporateInfoBranch
Sent: 16 May 2025 11:37
To: 'NPCC CRU Mailbox' S.40(2)
Subject: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [POLICE]: RE: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/004852/T - Request logged - Advice to Follow
Dear NPCC,
I confirm we received this request – PSNI ref. FOI/14717.

Yours sincerely,

S.40(2)

Corporate Information Branch
Operations Support Department

E-mail: S.40(2)

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 85 Knock Road • Belfast • BT5 6LE

cid:image001.png@01D8280E.C938DD80

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)
Sent: 16 May 2025 11:26
Subject: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/004852/T - Request logged - Advice to Follow

Dear All,

The below FOI request has now been logged in the CRU. Please let us know if you have received it. Advice will follow in due course.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/004852/T
Referred by: BCH Constabularies, Derbyshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police, South Yorkshire Police
Sent from: S.40(2)

The Applicant name is included in the acknowledgement email as a reference for forces only, any future correspondence will only quote the CRU reference number. Please do not duplicate the applicant name in any future correspondence and use only the CRU reference number

Applicant's request:

Concerning your police service's participation in S.23(1) over the past three years (January 2022 – present).

For each operation your service participated in, please could you provide:

1. The date(s) of the Week of Action.
2. Any associated operation name.
3. The thematic focus of the operation (e.g., county lines, cybercrime, modern slavery, firearms, etc.).
4. A list of the activity conducted by your service during the operation (e.g., warrants executed, increase patrolling, crime prevention action, public awareness).
5. A summary of outcomes achieved by your service, including (where recorded):
 - o Arrests made
 - o Charges filed or prosecutions initiated
 - o Drugs/weapons/assets seized
 - o Victims identified/safeguarded
 - o Any other performance metrics or KPIs recorded
6. Whether any internal reports or summaries were produced following participation (and if so, whether they can be shared, even in redacted form).

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

Management Assistant
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs' Council
NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI/14717
Category: Incident and Crime Statistics Serious and Organised Crime
Subject: Regarding Weeks of Action

Request and Answer:

Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 concerning your police services participation in **S.23(1)** over the past three years (January 2022 – present).

For each operation your service participated in, please could you provide:

1. The date(s) of the Week of Action.
2. Any associated operation name.
3. The thematic focus of the operation (e.g., county lines, cybercrime, modern slavery, firearms, etc.).
4. A list of the activity conducted by your service during the operation (e.g., warrants executed, increase patrolling, crime prevention action, public awareness).
5. A summary of outcomes achieved by your service, including (where recorded):
 - Arrests made
 - Charges filed or prosecutions initiated
 - Drugs/weapons/assets seized
 - Victims identified/safeguarded
 - Any other performance metrics or KPIs recorded
6. Whether any internal reports or summaries were produced following participation (and if so, whether they can be shared, even in redacted form).

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does not hold information in relation to your requests. Enquiries made in relation to your request failed to locate any records or documents relevant to your request based on the information you have provided.

This information would be held by **S.23(1)**

As such the information requested is not held by us or owned by us.

Accordingly, we have determined that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does not hold the information to which you seek access.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me at the e-mail address listed below. When contacting the Corporate Information Branch, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing CorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/) (<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>).

In most circumstances, the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out however, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at their discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
To: S.31(1)
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU ref 25/004801 PSNI ref FOI/167
Date: 24 June 2025 11:09:00
Attachments: image002.png
image003.png
image004.jpg

Many thanks S.40(2)

We are happy for you to send this response.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

Deputy Manager

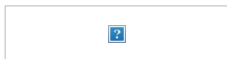
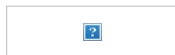
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit (NPFDU)

National Police Chiefs' Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

S.40(2)



From: S.31(1)
Sent: 24 June 2025 10:26
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)
Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU ref 25/004801 PSNI ref FOI/167

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

FAO S.40(2)

Hi S.40(2), for your records please find attached our IR Response in relation to our S.40(2) FOI.

Regards,

S.40(2)

T/Staff Officer | Corporate Information Branch
Operations Support Department

S.31(1)

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 65 Knock Road Belfast • BT5 6LE

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From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
To: "FreedomOfInformationRequest@psni.police.uk"
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [POLICE]: [FOI/00014682] - CRU 4835/S
Date: 18 July 2025 14:52:00
Attachments: RE CRU ref 254835S - Police System Contracts and Technical Specifications -01FOI25014007.msg

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POLICE EYES ONLY

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Good afternoon S.40(2)

Thank you for your email. I am very sorry, it looks as though this hasn't come out to you. I have attached the advice that was sent on the 12/06/25 to another force. Should you have any questions or hold any different information, please let us know and we can look at this for you.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

,NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

* Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

S.40(2)

From: S.31(1)

Sent: 17 July 2025 12:31

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)

Subject: OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [POLICE]: [FOI/00014682]

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Good afternoon S.40(2)

Is there any update on the below mentioned case?

Thanks,

S.40(2)

Hi S.40(2)

No worries, I understand. It seems we are all under pressure at the moment. Below is what we have received from our record owner:

Response

The contract in question has a confidentiality clause(s) (Clauses 21 & 22) which prevents me from sharing specific information relating to the contract contents, value and person(s).

Such information could be provided based on contract terms, where approval was sought from the original supplier. The resulting data would still be subject to a dedicated confidentiality agreement to support the supplier and their interests.

Secondly – provision of highly detailed and commercially sensitive contract information, annual value (budgets) and original procurement documentation, would provide an unfair advantage to the requestor should they wish to bid for future work in the same area within PSNI. This is not permitted.

Thirdly the request for names and contact details, particularly for PSNI staff poses both data security and personal security risks.

Harm

Harm to an individual whose personal information can be identified. Is any third party information identifiable and would an individual suffer a detriment/breach of data protection as a result? This is only likely if release to the public is going to be unfair to an individual (e.g. it is unlikely to be unfair if they can be identified to the public by reason of their job role).

Information which is provided to PSNI in confidence. This relates to information generated by a third party, not within PSNI.

Harm to the commercial interests of PSNI or another body (evidence must be supplied of any harm to a third party and please also provide evidence of the public interest factors you consider are relevant).

Refinement

A very high level response could be given to some aspects of the request but these would not satisfy the values nor contacts requested.

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

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OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE
POLICE EYES ONLY

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Good morning S.40(2)

Thank you for your email.

We are sorry but at present a caseworker has not yet been assigned to this case. We are currently working through a backlog and we sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Please rest assured that we are doing our very best to progress cases as efficiently as possible, and we will be in touch as soon as we have formulated the advice for you.

In the meantime have you had back any further information from your relevant department on what is held?.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

National Freedom of Information Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit |
National Police Chiefs Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

Via MS Teams

S.40(2)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: S.31(1)

Sent: 02 June 2025 16:34

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)

Subject: OFFICIAL [PUBLIC] [FOI/14682] Officer Mobile Applications

Good afternoon colleagues,

Any update on this one?

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

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- If you have any concerns regarding this email please forward to the Information Security Unit.

Dear S.40(2)

Thank you for your email. Please find attached acknowledgement to Notts for this request.

Advice will follow in due course.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

Management Assistant

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection

Unit

National Police Chiefs' Council

📬 NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

✉

S.31(1)

[REDACTED]

From:
S.31(1)

Sent: 14 May 2025 13:14

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)

Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: [FOI/14682]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Our Reference: FOI/14682

NPCC,

We are writing to advise you that the PSNI received the above numbered request; it has been in our possession for 2 days.

Please find attached the NPCC Freedom of Information Referral Template with regard to this request.

The officer dealing with this request is S.40(2)

Please direct your replies to CorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk

Yours sincerely,

S.40(2)

Corporate Information Branch

E-mail: S.31(1)

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 65 Knock Road • Belfast • BT5 6LE

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S.31(1)

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number 101. If it is an emergency, please call 999. Thank you.

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From: [NPCC CRU Mailbox](#)
To: S.31(1)
Subject: RE: CRU ref: 25/4835/S - Police System Contracts and Technical Specifications -01/FOI/25/014007
Date: 12 June 2025 11:43:00

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

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Hi S.40(2)

Thank you for the additional information. Without clarification from the applicant on which police app they are referring to it is difficult for us to give accurate advice, however please see the below.

Questions 1 & 2 - we are content for a NIH held response.

Question 3 - Is the name supplied here the person in your force that deals with your in house product? and not the app key contact requested by the applicant?.

Question 4 - this question really would be for your business expert to comment on and advise.

Question 5 - we feel this could quite possibly be s12 and you would need to check this before responding back to the applicant.

I hope this helps.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

[REDACTED]
NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

,NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

S.40(2)

From: S.31(1)

Sent: 11 June 2025 14:10

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)

Subject: RE: CRU ref: 25/4835/S - Police System Contracts and Technical Specifications -01/FOI/25/014007

Hi S.40(2)

We have received the below information in red from our relevant department.

I would like to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for information regarding the police officer mobile app used by your service, as well as related technologies. To ensure I receive as comprehensive a response as possible, I kindly request the following details:

1. Supplier and Contract Information: We do not have a commercial off the shelf product but a bespoke product built in house. Question 1 doesn't apply

- a) The name of the current supplier for your police officer mobile app (e.g., Motorola Pronto, or others).
- b) The start and end dates of the contract.
- c) The total value of the contract, as well as the number of licenses currently in use.
- d) The annual contract value, if available.
- e) If the solution was sourced through another organisation (e.g., the council or a consortium), please provide details of that organisation.

2. Contractual and Procurement Details: We do not have a commercial off the shelf product but a bespoke product built in house. Question 2 doesn't apply

- a) A copy of the original technical specification and tender documents used in the procurement of the police officer mobile app.
- b) The names of any suppliers who bid for the contract, along with how they scored across each evaluation domain (e.g., quality, cost, and overall score).
- c) A summary of the procurement process used, including the weighting of different evaluation criteria.

3. Contact Information:

- a) The name, email address, and phone number of the system owner or key contact responsible for the police officer mobile app software within your service. Superintendent Paul Burrows. paul.burrows@notts.police.uk email contact only please
- b) The department in which the system owner is based. Information Services

4. Related Technology Systems:

a) Please provide details of any additional technology systems integrated with or complementing your police officer mobile app, such as:

- . Incident management systems SAAB SAFE
- . Mobile communications platforms EE
- . Vehicle tracking or telematics systems UK Telematics UK telematics
- . Command and control systems SAAB SAFE

. Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

b) For each system, please provide the supplier name, contract start and end dates, contract value, and renewal date. The mobile app is support by open street maps, which is free and also Google Street Maps for which we have a pay as you go corporate account, no renewal as such and no contract

5. Collaborative or Shared Procurement:

a) If your service participates in any shared or collaborative purchasing frameworks for technology (e.g., with other authorities or consortia), please provide details of these frameworks or partnerships, and the contracts awarded through them. we use Bluelight Commercial and a variety of government frameworks relevant to the nature of the technology being procured, for example CCS. Your question is very general and the number of technology procurements is quite high so this will take some time to do. If you could be specific, we would happily supply the details to you, for example the technologies listed in 4a.

Given the scope of this request, if processing time becomes an issue, I have listed my request in priority order and would appreciate it if the contractual information related to the police officer app (Section 1) could be prioritised, please.

As far as I know, nothing has been clarified with the requestor.

Hope this helps.

Many thanks
FOI Team

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)

Sent: 11 June 2025 14:05

To: Freedom of Information S.31(1)

Subject: CRU ref: 25/4835/S - Police System Contracts and Technical Specifications -01/FOI/25/014007

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

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Good afternoon,

We apologise for the delay in our advice at present and thank you for your patience.

We are currently looking at this case and can see that we have had no further update on what may or may not be held by your relevant areas. Have you had an update from your business area at all on this?.

When reading the request wording the applicant mentions your police officer mobile app however it does not name the app itself. Has this been clarified with the applicant which app they are referring to?.

Thank you

Kind Regards

S.40(2)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council
NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

S.40(2)

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From: S.31(1)
To: [NPFDU CRU Helpline](#)
Subject: OFFICIAL [PUBLIC] [FOI/15192] Police Guidance
Date: 31 July 2025 14:26:06

NPFDU CRU Referral Guidance and Form

In order for the NPFDU CRU to deliver its remit, forces and partners must refer certain requests so the unit can centrally assess. Please carefully read the following to allow the team to respond as promptly and as accurately as possible.

All mandatory referrals and requests for specific disclosure advice must come via a completed referral form emailed to S.31(1) Please note incomplete forms will be returned.

- Mandatory referrals take priority and will be prioritised over general advice questions. The unit must ensure mandatory referral advice is in line with national guidance and respond promptly to enable forces to do similar.
- In addition to these mandatory referrals, any FOI/EIR requests that require specific disclosure and/or technical advice can be sent to the above email address with a completed form.
- Once an FOI referral has been received, we will generate an e-mail which will confirm its URN. This message may also contain further instructions which must be complied with before further guidance can be issued.
- Any request referred must not be answered until a final response has been received from the NPFDU CRU, unless otherwise stated from the team. If your force is considering making a disclosure prior to advice being issued or if it does not intend to follow national guidance, please make contact as soon as possible.
- The team aim to respond within the SLA of 10 working days, if the team are unable to, you will be notified. The team cannot prioritise a referral because it has been sent in late from a force. Please use our drop in sessions if appropriate.

Please note some additional questions have been added to the referral form below. It is important these are answered in as much detail as possible. If not, or left blank, the team will return the form and ask for further information before responding. This will assist the NPFDU in providing informative, consistent and accurate advice in a timely manner and to prevent delays to our service.

Mandatory Referrals-By Subject Area	
Subject	Further Detail
Witness protection/protected persons.	Ultra high risk subject area which must be referred to CRU.
Requests which name and/or relate to information which MAY originate from any of the S23 bodies.	S.23(1)
Covert operations, use of informants or surveillance activities or tactics.	Ultra high risk subject area which must be referred to CRU.
New programmes or software products such as Data Platforms/systems/tools for operational purposes.	Requests relating to operational products (whether being piloted, trialled or implemented or not), including engagement with new software companies that predominately handle big data such as 'Briefcam', 'Palantir'. Referrals are not required for back office functions such as AI Chatbot, crime prediction tools etc. If known please inform the CRU of the operational context of the product e.g. AI analysing digital evidence
Counter terrorism (incl Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare) and/or national security material or operations.	Includes SB, CTU, CBRN, port or airport operations, Crowded Spaces and ANPR.
VIP/Royalty Protection.	To include high profile Royal events and visits.
Information received from or which relates to certain partner agencies. Referral only required once established information is captured by the request.*	Includes NPCC, any government department, IOPC, CPS and College of Policing.
Major or complex incidents or major investigations or operations.*	Examples such as extremist protests, large scale public disorder, multiple or high profile unexplained deaths, cross border incidents. Will also include national operations and Inquiries. Please contact the CRU if unsure. Local investigations/operations do not need referring.
International Relations	Includes international training, visiting overseas dignitaries & FCO equities where s27 may be engaged.
National Security	Requests requiring s24 will need stakeholder consideration
Notification of ICO complaint, First Tier Tribunal or Upper Tribunal activity	
Requests with potentially significant reputational implications, e.g. the storage of human tissue.	Where national policing leads would welcome the opportunity to comment on high profile matters (if unsure please contact the CRU)
Requests for information held for the purpose of a statutory Inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005	Examples – UCPI, Manchester Arena, Death of Dawn Sturgess, Grenfell

*If a request is captured by previous NPFDU guidance within the past 12 months, then no referral is required.

S.31(1)

There is no requirement to refer if the information requested is already officially published 'Officially published' includes, MAPPA reports and websites such as OSC, The College of Policing, NPCC, Government, IOPC, PCC, Police.UK or Force websites, or documents already marked as suitable for publication under FOIA 2000.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE BELOW FIELDS TO ENSURE ACCURATE & TIMELY ADVICE, IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANK YOU

Force reference number:	FOI/15192
Date request received:	15/07/2025
Type of request:	Initial If at IR or appeal stage please provide sight of previous responses and requestors comments.
Applicants Name for reference	S.31(1)
Actual wording of request	In May 2025, the UK Police was issued guidance on how to search women's homes for abortion drugs and check their phones for menstrual cycle tracking apps after unexpected pregnancy loss. Among others, Chapter 10.4 of the Guidance states Many people are reliant on their digital devices to contact family and friends, and access other sources of information and support. Consideration must be given to the impact of seizing digital devices from a woman under investigation in these very difficult circumstances. Where it is necessary to seize

	digital devices, lead investigators should consider providing the woman with a replacement device if the seizure of devices would inhibit access to family, friends or sources of support during the investigation, and there are no other means of communication available to the woman. I would like to request the following data Any submission you made regarding the now Chapter 10.4 of the Guidance Any correspondence they have had with the NPCC or the Home Office or other UK police forces regarding the now Chapter 10.4 of the Guidance between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024
Reason for referral	Non mandatory advice – request mentions NPCC specifically. We have been to several record owners within PSNI and have had all nil returns so far.
Specific advice required	For non-mandatory referrals please specify why it has been referred and what advice is needed. Seeking whether or not this is truly no information held for ourselves. Do NPCC have anything from PSNI regarding this?
Is it a valid request (S.8)?	Yes
Do you know what information you hold? Please provide as much detail as possible. Is the information retrievable within 18 hours, is s12 a consideration?	<i>These are the responses we have received so far:</i> Justice I think this is maybe more for Crime who would carry out the searches? C2 Nil return from C2 Local Policing This is not something I am aware of Local Policing having any involvement in. Would have thought if it was for investigations into unexpected pregnancy loss, this would have sat with Crime Department somehow. Would suggest the requestor may be better placed to submit to NPCC requesting details of all Police Services who contributed to this chapter. (PSNI may not have had an input?)
What views and opinions are held by the FOI team and Business leads?	<i>No views as of yet</i>
Person dealing with request and contact number:	

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From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
To: PSNI Generic Mailbox
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: [FOI/15239] CRU ref: 25/5055/C - Terrorism Arrests - Including Advice - PSNI Query
Date: 19 August 2025 10:01:00
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.jpg
15239 Anti-Terror Arrests.pdf

OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE
POLICE EYES ONLY

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Good morning S.40(2)

I am hesitant to agree with the attached being released.

We would have no issue with s21 being cited for a request because you publish s41 terrorism data. However, we note the following publication by PSNI: <https://www.psnipolice.uk/sites/default/files/2025-08/Security%20Situation%20Statistics%20to%20July%202025.pdf>, which provides data on s41 terrorism Act arrests from **01/08/24 – 31/07/25**, and we note the monthly breakdown of arrests on the following PSNI publication: <https://www.psnipolice.uk/sites/default/files/2025-06/Security%20Situation%20Statistics%20to%20May%202025.pdf> currently covering the period of **June 2024 – May 2025**. However due to the specificity of the timeframe in the request, neither publication allows for s21 to be applied to the current request.

If you release statistical data for a different time period specified in an FOI request (**in this case 24/06/24 – 25/06/25**), the cumulative effect of crossed over data between your disclosures and published data reveals numbers that are illustrative of very low level information – in this case, weeks and even days of data. That is harmful in itself for just one request, but the harm is magnified if you consider that over time, if repeat requests for different time periods were to be made (and there was a precedent set that they would be released by historically doing so), weekly, even possibly daily, running totals of terrorism arrests could be revealed; there is obvious harm from a counter terrorism/national security, and operational law enforcement/investigative perspective if that was to occur.

While we appreciate this is only statistical data and further appreciate that, dissimilar to forces in England and Wales, PSNI as a single force cover Northern Ireland as a whole (thus reducing the *geographical* mapping effect concerns we raise for other forces), due to the fact that the date range of the FOI request is different to the date ranges you pro-actively publish, we maintain our position that the data should be withheld for this specific FOI to avoid any crossover and subsequent disclosure of terror arrest data for far shorter time periods which would be operationally harmful.

We feel that the public interest in transparency is more than met by the published level of data.

To assist the applicant, you could provide the link to your publication.

If proceeding with exemption, then you will need to amend the wording we originally provided to reflect the above harm as described – the harm we provided originally is on the assumption forces don't publish any data. Unfortunately we do not hold a form of words for that harm which we can provide.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

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

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)



From: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk <zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk>
Sent: 18 August 2025 16:12
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)
Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: [FOI/15239] CRU ref: 25/5055/C - Terrorism Arrests - Including Advice - PSNI Query

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good afternoon

The PSNI publish data annually and broken down by month, for arrests under S41 of the Terrorism Act.

We would therefore ask if NPCC would be willing to approve the attached response.

Thank you

S.40(2)

Corporate Information Branch

PSNI Headquarters . Brooklyn . 65 Knock Road . Belfast . BT5 6LE



From: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)
Sent: 14 August 2025 10:24
Subject: CRU ref: 25/5055/C - Terrorism Arrests - Including Advice

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OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE
POLICE EYES ONLY

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Dear Ali,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message.

Our reference: 25/5055/C

Referred by: All Forces

Applicant's request:

Request for the number of anti-terror arrests made during the period from June 24, 2024, to June 25, 2024. Please provide the total number of individuals arrested under anti-terrorism legislation within this specified timeframe.

Some forces have received the following clarification – amending the timeframe:

Request for the number of anti-terror arrests made during the period from 24/06/2024 to 25/06/2025. Please provide the total number of individuals arrested under anti-terrorism legislation within this specified timeframe.

CRU Advice:

As with any request, cost should be the first consideration. If to locate and retrieve all the requested information would exceed the cost limits of the act, then s12 is recommended to be used. When issuing your refusal notice we recommend you notify the applicant how best to refine their request, if feasible to do so. If cost is not a factor, the following advice applies:

There are 2 different timeframes for this request across various forces however our advice is the same for both, namely that data for the number of arrests under terrorism legislation should be withheld s24(1) and s31(1).

As you may be aware, national data on terrorism arrests is published by the Home Office and you may wish to direct the applicant to that link by way of assistance, it can be found [here](#). As a result of this, forces are required to complete a return to the Home Office on terrorism arrests made, which means that even where figures are zero, recorded data can be considered as held by all forces. Our view is that even if these returns are completed on a monthly or quarterly basis, data for just one day – even if it is zero (if your force has that version of the request) will be considered held in order to compile these returns.

A form of words, taken from an MPS release for very similar information, is below to guide you. Please ensure this is made force specific, and reflects the timeframe of your request.

Evidence of Harm

FOIA is considered to be a release to the world as once the information is published the public authority has no control over what use is made of that information. Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant it could be of use to those who seek to disrupt any police investigation as it would provide valuable intelligence to terrorists and/or extremists on the effectiveness of CT activity by an individual police force for arrests made specifically in relation to terrorism legislation.

Modern day policing is intelligence led and this is particularly pertinent with regard to both law enforcement and national security. The public expect police forces to use all powers and tactics available to them to prevent and detect crime or disorder and maintain public safety.

The threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It should be recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. The UK faces a sustained threat from violent terrorists and extremists. Since 2006, the UK Government have published the threat level, based upon current intelligence and that threat has remained at the second highest level, 'severe', except for two short periods during August 2006 and June and July 2007, when it was raised to the highest threat, 'critical', and in July 2009, when it was reduced to 'substantial'. The current threat level to the UK is 'substantial'.

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

If **XXX force** we to disclose the number of arrests under terrorism legislation, this would undermine an individual force's policing capabilities, which consequently would be detrimental to their ability to deal with the on-going terrorist threat we face.

To provide the requested data for an individual force would allow comparison between forces across the country and enable terrorists to build a picture of the effectiveness of what resources are in place and where they are deployed. Disclosure would ultimately prejudice the effectiveness of the national counter terrorism effort and would allow inferences to be drawn about force level counter-terrorism activity and identify vulnerability around the country.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for S24

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and to disclose the requested information would allow the public to see where money is being spent and know that forces are doing as much as possible to combat terrorism.

Factors favouring non-disclosure for S24

To disclose this data would render security measures less effective. The risk of harm to the public would be elevated if areas of the UK which appear vulnerable were identified, which would also provide the opportunity for terrorist planning. Ongoing or future operations to protect the security and infrastructure of the UK would be compromised as terrorists could map the level of counter-terrorist activity across the country, providing them with the knowledge of individual force capability as well as valuable knowledge concerning the vulnerability of individual force areas.

Factors favouring disclosure for S31

To disclose the requested data would allow the public to understand that the police are robust in preventing and investigating terrorism-related activity. This would enable the public to have a better understanding of efficiency of the force in carrying out its law enforcement role and demonstrate our commitment to openness and transparency.

Disclosure would make members of the public more aware of the threat of terrorism and allow them to take steps to protect themselves and families. Improved public awareness may lead to more intelligence being submitted to police about possible acts of terrorism, as members of the public will be more observant to suspicious activity, which in turn may result in a reduction of crime.

Factors favouring non-disclosure for S31

The release of this information could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder **XXX force's** ability to prevent and detect terrorist crimes. The threat of terrorism will increase as more crimes are committed as a result of terrorists gaining knowledge about the capabilities of individual forces and therefore the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised, as terrorists identify areas to be less police focused and therefore vulnerable and target and exploit these areas, resulting in the public being in fear of more terrorist activity occurring.

There would be an impact on police resources by disclosing the requested data, as vulnerable forces may need to increase their resources to reassure and protect the surrounding community.

Balancing Test

To disclose the number of individuals arrested under terrorism legislation would start to indicate levels of policing activity at force level, which could allow individuals to exploit what may be considered as less active or resourced areas, by assessing patterns of police activity and deployments over time, ultimately to avoid detection.

The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge information if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine National Security or compromise law enforcement. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and in this case providing assurance that the police are appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by terrorist activity, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and law enforcement in the highly sensitive subject of terrorism.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security this will be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Police force's capabilities of combating terrorism are sensitive issues of intelligence value to the terrorist and therefore it is our opinion that for these issues the balancing test for disclosing the requested information would not be in the public interest.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

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

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)



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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI/15239
Category: Incident and Crime Statistics Counter Terrorism
Subject: Anti-Terror Arrests

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates. The decision has been taken to disclose the following.

Request

I am writing to submit a Freedom of Information (FOI) request for the number of anti-terror arrests made during the period from 24/06/2024 to 25/06/2025. Please provide the total number of individuals arrested under anti-terrorism legislation within this specified timeframe.

Answer

PSNI Statistics Branch collate statistics on the number of arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Between 24 June 2024 and 25 June 2025 there were 38 persons arrested under this legislation. This includes arrests under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 that are not linked to the security situation in Northern Ireland.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me at the e-mail address listed below. When contacting the Corporate Information Branch, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you're dissatisfied with the outcome or how your Freedom of Information request was handled, you can ask for an internal review. Please submit your request for review in writing within 40 working days of receiving our initial response. Regrettably, reviews submitted after this timeframe cannot be accepted, in line with the Information Commissioner's guidance. Further information can be found at the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/request-handling-freedom-of-information/>

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing CorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other

platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/) (<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>).

In most circumstances, the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out however, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at their discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website at the following link: www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
To: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005115/X - Advice - PSNI REF: [FOI/15412]
Date: 29 August 2025 15:44:00
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png

Thank for your email, we have no concerns with a s12 response.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

Deputy Manager

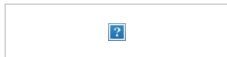
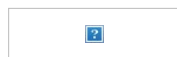
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit (NPFDU)

National Police Chiefs' Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

S.40(2)



From: zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk <zCorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk>
Sent: 29 August 2025 14:56
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)
Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005115/X - Advice - PSNI REF: [FOI/15412]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good afternoon

The PSNI have determined it would be over cost to retrieve the data sought in this request due to the way the information is recorded (Searches by offence only return records where the searched offence is the highest level offence on the record. To retrieve the data where a breach of Section 12 or 13 occurred, where it was not the highest level offence, would require a manual trawl of all offences for each year).

Could you confirm if a 12(1) would be appropriate when answering this request?

Thank you

S.40(2)

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)
Sent: 20 August 2025 15:49
Subject: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005115/X - Advice

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Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005115/X
Referred by: National

Applicant's request:

- The number of arrests at your force under the Terrorism Act 2000 so far this year (2025).
- The number of 2025 arrests under section 12, and the number under section 13.
- The number of arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 in the annual year 2024.
- The number of 2024 arrests under section 12, and the number under section 13.
- The number of arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 in the annual year 2023.
- The number of 2023 arrests under section 12, and the number under section 13.

- For the arrests under section 13 in 2025, please can you provide a list of the types of items seized in any house raids conducted as a result of these arrests. E.g. laptops, literature, phones.

CRU Advice:

Following extensive consultation with policing leads, it has been agreed that figures relating to Section 12 and Section 13 offences can be released. These offences pertain to:

Section 12 – Inviting support for a proscribed organisation

Section 13 – Displaying or publishing articles or images in support of a proscribed organisation

The lead has assessed that the risk associated with publishing these figures at police force level is minimal. This decision is supported by the volume of publicly available information already being released in connection with recent protest activity. Therefore, questions 2, 4 and 6 can be answered.

With regards questions 1,3 and 5, we have interpreted this to mean S41 of the Terrorism Act AND any 'other legislation' for non-terrorism related activity, as set out in the published data tables [operation-police-powers-terrorism-mar2025-annual-tables.ods](#) - tab A_A_01 refers.

The stance with regards overall disclosures at force level is to withhold the information s24(1) and s31(1). The stance is well established however, the attached MPS response should provide a steer.

With regards a list of equipment, this will depend on the information forces hold, but we see no immediate harm in a generalised list such as referred by the applicant provided investigations are not undermined.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

Deputy Manager
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs' Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)

S.40(2)



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S.31(1) and to the sender. Please then delete the email and destroy any copies of it. DO NOT use this email address for other enquiries as it will not be responded to, nor any action taken upon it. If you have a non-urgent enquiry, please call the Police non-emergency number 101. If it is an emergency, please call 999. Thank you.

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From: [NPCC CRU Mailbox](#)
To: S.40(2)
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU 25/5110 - Anduril Industries - [FOI/15398]
Date: 30 October 2025 15:45:00
Attachments: [15398 Use of Tools From Anduril Industries.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

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Hi S.40(2)

Thank you for sending this over, and our apologies for the delays.

So as not to cause further delays, and having already discussed this with S.40(2), it is perhaps best at present to continue and wait to see if the applicant challenges it. The likelihood of that seems high, but the rationale provided by your business area has weight, and from the perspective of border security the NCND for PSNI is more compelling than it would otherwise be for mainland forces where the HO caters to that task.

Likewise, our stance for forces may change to cite NCND in future anyway. However, we would need to explore the weight of that further.

In short, please continue with your response.

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs Council
NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)



From: S.40(2)

Sent: 30 October 2025 12:32

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox

Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU 25/5110 - Anduril Industries - [FOI/15398]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good afternoon

I took part in the NPFDU Drop-in session this morning and it was confirmed this draft did not reach the CRU Mailbox.

Please see attached our proposed draft and please let us know that it has been received.

Thank you

S.40(2)

PSNI's Corporate Information Branch

From: zCorporateInfoBranch

Sent: 28 October 2025 10:16

To: 'NPCC CRU Mailbox' S.31(1)

Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: FW: CRU 25/5110 - Anduril Industries - [FOI/15398]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good morning

Can you provide an update on the approval of this response?

Thank you

S.40(2)

PSNI's Corporate Information Branch

From: zCorporateInfoBranch

Sent: 20 October 2025 17:26

To: 'NPCC CRU Mailbox' S.31(1)

Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: CRU 25/5110 - Anduril Industries - [FOI/15398]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good afternoon

Please see attached the draft we propose to release in regards to CRU 25/5110 - Anduril Industries.

Please review and advise of any changes that may be required.

Thank you

S.40(2)

Corporate Information Branch

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Hi S.40(2),

Thank you for the email. We have discussed this within the team and have nothing to add currently. Assuming PSNI is intending to cite s24(2) within the NCND, S.31(1)

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

Freedom of Information Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit

National Police Chiefs Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.31(1)



From: S.40(2)

Sent: 10 October 2025 13:38

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.40(2)

Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: FW: OS - CRU 25/5110 - Anduril Industries [FOI/15398]

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good afternoon

The PSNI are intending on releasing an NCND response and the rationale for this is as follows:
The rationale is, that by ruling out providers, any queries into current PSNI capabilities can, with subsequent FOI's, lead to an understanding (through elimination) of our capacity to mitigate threats. This company, whilst on the surface provides military grade solutions, still may have applications touching on sensors, drones/counter drones and, is relevant to National Security threat mitigation.

Please let us know if you have any objections to releasing an NCND response.

Thank you

S.40(2)

Corporate Information Branch

PSNI Headquarters . Brooklyn . 65 Knock Road . Belfast . BT5 6LE

Macintosh HD:Users:marion:Desktop:Email Signature Image alt-01.jpg



From: NPCC CRU Mailbox S.31(1)

Sent: 03 September 2025 07:21

Subject: OS - CRU 25/5110 - Anduril Industries

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Dear All,

Apologies for the wait on this. Please see below advice:

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005110/S

Referred by: National

Applicant's request

1. Please provide copies of the following documents and/or reports relating to Anduril Industries tools (Lattice OS, Command and Control, drones/UAV/UAS, Pulsar, Wisp, sentry towers, etc.) that your police force has access to, whether they are internal or external:

• Data Protection Assessments

• Memorandums of Understanding between your police force and other organisations

• Equality Impact Assessments

• Internal data retention/deletion policies

• Pilot/trial scheme evaluation reports

• Comparison reports with any potential alternatives

2. Please also declare any future plans (with specific dates, if possible) to test, trial, and/or deploy tools from Anduril Industries including any internal/external reports which contain information on

this matter.

CRU Advice

As always, the following is given on the proviso that s12 is not relevant.

This is the first FOI request we appear to have received in respect of ANDURIL technologies. S.31(1)

[REDACTED]

Whilst we remain applicant and motive blind, it is easy to find articles that discuss the use of ANDURIL technologies:

[The UK's AI Borders: Anduril's Autonomous Surveillance Towers - Migrants Rights Network](#)

[Britain's dangerous £62m gamble on Anduril: the rise of AI warfare in UK Defence - AOA](#)

Overall, ANDURIL seems straightforward enough as a capability. S.31(1)

[REDACTED]

For Q1, the request is asking for copies of documents and/or reports forces have **access to**, which is not strictly a question about whether or not you hold information. Obviously, if you hold such documents under FOI terms, then you have access also. However, having access to something, but not holding the information for the use by your own force, is not information held for the purpose of FOI per se. For example, all forces will have access to [the ANDURIL website](#), but that does not constitute information held unless your force saves the information from it and uses it for its own purpose. Simple access to information is not enough to qualify as information held.

S.31(1)

[REDACTED]

Q2 " Again we suspect that this is NIH. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

Freedom of Information Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit

National Police Chiefs Council

NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.40(2)

	
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Police Service of Northern Ireland

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI/15398
Category: Other
Subject: Use of Tools From Anduril Industries

Request and Answer:

In relation to request number FOI/15398 Police Service of Northern Ireland is providing an NCND response and will explain this further in the response below.

Request

Please provide copies of the following documents and/or reports relating to Anduril Industries tools (Lattice OS, Command and Control, drones/UAV/UAS, Pulsar, Wisp, sentry towers, etc.) that your police force has access to, whether they are internal or external:

1. Data Protection Assessments
2. Memorandums of Understanding between your police force and other organisations
3. Equality Impact Assessments
4. Internal data retention/deletion policies
5. Pilot/trial scheme evaluation reports
6. Comparison reports with any potential alternatives
7. Please also declare any future plans (with specific dates, if possible) to test, trial, and/or deploy tools from Anduril Industries including any internal/external reports which contain information on this matter.

Answer

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request. The Police Service of Northern Ireland can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you have requested.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) 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 the request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Where exemption/s are relied upon Section 17(1) 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) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) can Neither Confirm Nor Deny that it holds the information relevant to your request as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption(s):

Section 24(2) National Security – The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, exemption from s 1(1)(a) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement - The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would or would be likely to, prejudice any of the matters mentioned in subsection (1).

Section 24 is a qualified prejudice based exemption and evidence of harm and a public interest test must be conducted.

Section 31 is a qualified prejudice based exemption and evidence of harm and a public interest test must be conducted.

The full text of exemptions can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website www.ico.org.uk.

PSNI follow the Information Commissioner's Guidance in relation to 'NCND' and you may find it helpful to refer to this at the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guidance-index/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/when-to-refuse-to-confirm-or-deny-holding-information/>

'Neither Confirm nor Deny' (NCND)

There may be occasions when complying with the duty to confirm or deny under section 1(1)(a) would in itself disclose sensitive or potentially damaging information that falls under an exemption. In these circumstances, the Act allows a public authority to respond by refusing to confirm or deny whether it holds the requested information.

The decision to issue a 'neither confirm nor deny' response is not affected by whether we do or do not hold the information but relates to the consequences of confirming or denying the information is held. The starting point and main focus in most cases will be theoretical considerations about the consequences of confirming or denying that a particular type of information is held. The decision to neither confirm nor deny is separate from a decision not to disclose information and needs to be taken entirely on its own merits.

However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist. NCND is not about the content of the requested information. The aim of providing an NCND response is to leave the question of whether or not PSNI hold the information entirely open. This is to ensure that no inferences can be drawn from the fact that we hold or do not hold the information.

Exemptions Explained

Harm in Confirming or Denying that Information is Held - Section 24

The release of information under Freedom of Information (FOI) is a release into the public domain and not just to the individual requesting the information. Once information is disclosed by FOI there is no control or limits as to who or how the information is shared with other individuals, therefore a release under FOI is considered a disclosure to the world in general.

It should be recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. The UK faces a serious and sustained threat from violent extremists and this threat is greater in scale and ambition than any of the terrorist threats in the past. The threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland related terrorism is substantial. The threat level in the UK as a whole is also substantial.

It is well established that police forces utilise surveillance in order to counteract criminal behaviour, detect crime, and assist in the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. Confirmation or denial that information is held in relation to this request, combined with subsequent FOI's, could give criminal or terrorist organisations insight into our capabilities in surveillance and lead to an understanding of our capacity to mitigate threats. This could allow these groups to take steps to avoid detection and it may also suggest the limitations of police capabilities, which may further encourage criminal/terrorist activity by exposing potential vulnerabilities. This could seriously compromise and significantly weaken police tactics resulting in an increased risk to members of the public.

Information that undermines the operational integrity of police forces will adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on both national security and law enforcement.

Public Interest – Section 24

Factors favouring confirmation or denial for Section 24

Confirmation or denial that any other information exists relevant to the request would lead to a better informed public and provide more insight into how public funding is spent.

Factors against confirmation or denial for Section 24

By confirming or denying that any information is held could render national security measures less effective. This could lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Balancing Test/Decision – Section 24

When balancing the public interest it is necessary to consider the release of the requested information into the public domain. The public interest is not what interests the public, but what would be of tangible benefit to the public as a whole. Confirmation or denial of whether the PSNI hold any information would amount to a release of information either on this occasion or on other occasions where a similar request is made.

Any disclosure under FOI is a release to the public at large. Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, confirming or denying if Anduril Industries tools are used by PSNI could reveal operational tactics linked to policing and could adversely affect the ability of PSNI and others to safeguard national security. This could have a significant negative impact on the safety of the public and, therefore, the PSNI considers the information you have requested exempt by virtue of Neither Confirm nor Deny exemptions which PSNI is entitled to rely upon.

However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.

Harm in Confirming or Denying that Information is Held - Section 31

Every effort should be made to release information under FOI. However, to confirm or deny if Anduril Industries tools are used by PSNI could reveal operational tactics linked to surveillance and mitigating threats, compromising the ability of PSNI to carry out its law enforcement purposes and protect the public from harm.

The Police Service is committed to demonstrating openness and accountability, however, if the Police Service were to either confirm or deny that information exists relevant to your request this could provide important information to those intent on criminal or terrorist activity.

Confirming or denying that the information you requested does or does not exist presents a real risk of identifying the strengths or limitations of the capabilities that the PSNI have. This could seriously compromise and significantly weaken police tactics resulting in an increased risk to the health and safety of the public.

Public Interest Test – Section 31

Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial for Section 31

Confirming or denying whether the requested information is held would enable the public to have a better understanding of the type of policing tools and tactics employed by the PSNI in carrying out their law enforcement role. This would give more confidence to the public that we are using (or, as the case may be, not using) policing tools and tactics to help us detect and prevent crime appropriately.

Factors Against Confirmation or Denial for Section 31

Confirming or denying that any information is held regarding Anduril Industries tools, would have the effect of compromising law enforcement tactics. It has been recorded that FOIA releases are monitored by criminals and terrorists and so to confirm or deny information is held concerning these tools would lead to law enforcement being undermined. The Police Service is reliant upon all manner of tools during operations and the public release of any modus operandi employed, if held, would prejudice the ability of the Police Service to perform the functions it exists to provide.

Confirmation or denial that information is held in relation to this request, combined with subsequent FOI's, could allow criminals to establish which tools the PSNI may be using and this could lead their focus to evaluating particular capabilities of specific tools. With this knowledge it would allow criminals to take steps to counteract these tools, and a confirmation or denial of any tools the PSNI may or may not use could allow efforts to be focused accordingly.

This detrimental effect is increased if the request is made to several different law enforcement bodies. In addition to the local criminal organisations now being better informed, those intent on organised crime throughout the UK will be able to 'map' where the use of certain tools are or are not deployed. This can be useful information to those committing crimes. It would have the likelihood of identifying location-specific operations which would ultimately compromise police tactics.

Information that undermines the operational integrity of these activities will adversely affect public safety and have a negative impact on Law Enforcement.

Balancing Test/Decision – Section 31

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the PSNI is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by various groups or individuals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of law enforcement functions.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced, it can be overridden in exceptional circumstances. If this information exists, disclosure would be to the detriment of providing an efficient policing service and would result in a failure in providing a duty of care to all members of the public. The use of technology can be a sensitive issue that would reveal police tactics and may put the public at risk. Therefore, it is our opinion that the public interest lies in neither confirming nor denying whether any information is held regarding Anduril Industries tools.

However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me at the e-mail address listed below. When contacting the Corporate Information Branch, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you're dissatisfied with the outcome or how your Freedom of Information request was handled, you can ask for an internal review. Please submit your request for review in writing within 40 working

days of receiving our initial response. Regrettably, reviews submitted after this timeframe cannot be accepted, in line with the Information Commissioner's guidance. Further information can be found at the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi/freedom-of-information-and-environmental-information-regulations/request-handling-freedom-of-information/>

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing CorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: Make a complaint | ICO (<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>).

In most circumstances, the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out however, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at their discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

From: [NPCC CRU Mailbox](#)
To: S.40(2)
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PUBLIC] [FOI/16093] WhatDoTheyKnow takedowns
Date: 14 November 2025 09:46:00
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[2549 2025 NPCC Response Letter - WhatdoTheyKnow Website Takedowns.pdf](#)

Good morning,

We are unable to advise you if NPCC will hold anything relevant to this request as it is not within our remit to establish that, it is for the force to identify anything held. If you identify any national documents as held (from the NPCC for example) please refer to us in the usual way with a copy of all information held which originates from a national body. We will then consult with stakeholders on your behalf.

What I can confirm however is that forces nationally are in receipt of this request and as such we have it logged in the CRU. Our reference is 25/5452/L. if you identify anything held which requires stakeholder consultation, please forward it to us citing that reference. We will be circulating overarching advice on the request in due course.

As an aside I can confirm NPCC received the same request, their response is attached.

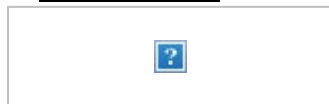
Kind regards

S.40(2)

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

📍 NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.40(2)



From: S.40(2)
Sent: 13 November 2025 14:58
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Subject: OFFICIAL [PUBLIC] [FOI/16093] WhatDoTheyKnow takedowns

Good Afternoon ,

We have received the following FOI:

All electronic and written correspondence (including copies of any attachments eg to emails) from and to the force regarding requests for so-called takedowns (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/ico_officers),

ie requests to remove part or all of a FOI/EIR request or response, from the WhatDoTheyKnow website.

As well as correspondence on any workspace chat software such as the chat function on Microsoft Teams, please include all correspondence including contacts representing the following organisations:

1. WhatDoTheyKnow or mySociety
2. NPCC
Central Referral Unit or National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
3. Information Commissioner"s Office

Can you please provide the correspondence from the start of the calendar year 2015 to date?

Would NPCC hold anything relevant to this request?

Thank you for your help with this .

Kind Regards,

S.40(2)

Corporate Information Branch

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c/o PO BOX 481
Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922

Email: npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk

17/10/2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2549/2025

Thank you for your request for information regarding NPFDU correspondence, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

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.

Description of information sought:

All electronic and written correspondence (including copies of any attachments eg to emails) from and to the NPCC Central Referral Unit or National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit regarding requests for so-called takedowns (https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/help/ico_officers), ie requests to remove part or all of a FOI/EIR request or response, from the WhatDoTheyKnow website.

As well as correspondence on any workspace chat software such as the chat function on Microsoft Teams, please include all correspondence including contacts representing the following organisations:

WhatDoTheyKnow or mySociety
Information Commissioner's Office
Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner

If you need any clarification about my request, or if you cannot provide all of the data I have requested, please contact me to discuss what information you could supply at the earliest opportunity on **S.40(2)**

If I am mistaken and all of the information requested is already in the public domain, please direct me to where I can find it.

If it is not, and you feel you cannot provide all of this information, please provide what information you can in the spirit of Section 16 of FoI, 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".

Please send me the information by email. Please provide me with a summary of the information I have requested.

I look forward to hearing from you promptly, and at any rate, within the statutory time limit of 20 working days from your receipt of this email.

Whilst writing, I take this opportunity to remind you of the Information Commissioner's public statements, in which it was stated that there was a "presumption of disclosure" under FoI.

Please note that if this request for FoI disclosure is refused, I reserve the right to take up the matter with the Information Commissioner and/or to pursue all legal avenues of appeal. I trust this will not be necessary.

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does not hold information captured by your request.

Normal Standard of proof to apply in determining whether a public authority does hold any requested information is the civil standard of the balance of probabilities. In deciding where the balance lies, the Information Commissioner considers the scope, quality, thoroughness and results of the searches carried out by the public authority as well as considering where appropriate, any other reasons offered by the public authority to explain why the information is not held.

Key wording searching for 'takedowns' and 'WDTK' in relation to requests for so-called takedowns has been completed within the NPCC Central Referral Unit and National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit of which returned no results.

I have undertaken all of the necessary checks in establishing whether information is held which is captured by your request and any necessary steps with regard to retrieval of such information.

Searches have been conducted with the NPCC portfolio(s) that relates to the subject matter and I am satisfied that the search conducted to locate the information that you have requested has been robust.

Unfortunately I am unable to suggest or provide any assistance in relation to your request as searches have returned no results.

Yours sincerely

S.40(2)

Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

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 40 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.

Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

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.

From: [NPCC CRU Mailbox](#)
To: S.40(2)
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: [FOI/15823] Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) Payments and Authorisations
Date: 19 November 2025 14:38:00
Attachments: [15823 Covert Human Intelligence Sources \(CHIS\) Payments and Authorisations v2.docm](#)
[image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE
POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Good afternoon David,

Thank you for your email and for sight of your draft.

For Q1 we note that in your full advice you have said 'Please note that PSNI is withholding Question 1 under S23(1), S24(1), S30(2)(b) and S31 (1)', which is confusing to read.

Our suggestion would be, at Q1, providing an added sentence that states that PSNI neither confirms nor denies holding any other information by virtue of [the exemptions listed].

Q2 and 3 are then full NCND, but you can incorporate the wording for the partial NCND at Q1 into the overall response.

The alternative is to address Q1 and provide the wording for the partial NCND. Then answer Q2 and Q3 and provide the wording for the full NCND.

Please can this be adjusted to reflect this and re-sent back to us for approval.

Kind regards

S.40(2)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council
,NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS

S.40(2)

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

S.40(2)

Sent: 18 November 2025 13:30

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox

Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: [FOI/15823] Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) Payments and Authorisations

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good Afternoon

Please find attached proposed draft for this FOI, based on wording provided by yourselves.

Please let me know what you think.

S.40(2)

**E02 | Corporate Information Branch
Operations Support Department**

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 65 Knock Road • Belfast • BT5 6LE



From: S.40(2)

Sent: 21 October 2025 10:54

To: S.40(2)

Subject: OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]: [FOI/15823] Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) Payments and Authorisations

This e-mail has been marked OFFICIAL [PARTNERS]

Good Morning

Your Ref: 01/CRF/25/005318/G

We don't seem to have received any advice on this FOI, however I have drafted a response (attached) for your views before release.

Please let me know what you think.

Many thanks

S.40(2)

**E02 | Corporate Information Branch
Operations Support Department**

PSNI Headquarters • Brooklyn • 65 Knock Road • Belfast • BT5 6LE



Dear All,

The below FOI request has now been logged in the CRU and will be treated as a national request. Advice will be sent to all forces in due course.

Please note we do not require confirmation that it has been received by your force.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005318/G

Referred by: South Yorkshire Police, Wiltshire Constabulary

Sent from: S.40(2)

The Applicant name is included in the acknowledgement email as a reference for forces only, any future correspondence will only quote the CRU reference number. Please do not duplicate the applicant name in any future correspondence and use only the CRU reference number.

Applicant's request:

Please provide me with the following information relating to payments made to Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS).

1. For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please a value for how much the police force has spent on CHIS, providing a breakdown for each FY
2. For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please state how many CHIS authorisations were granted to the police force, providing a breakdown for each FY
3. For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please state how much the police force has spent on CHIS related to Palestine protest groups, providing a breakdown for each FY

Kind regards,

S.40(2)

Management Assistant

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit

National Police Chiefs" Council

 **NPFDU PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire. PO14 9FS**



S.40(2)

[REDACTED]

Any views expressed by the sender of this message are not necessarily those of the Police Service of Northern Ireland. This email and any files transmitted with it are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. Internet email is not treated as a secure means of communication. PSNI monitors all internet email activity and content. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately by using the reply facility in you email software. All emails are scanned for the presence of viruses.



Police Service
of Northern Ireland

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: FOI/15823

Category: Operational policing, Investigations and Events Investigations and Operations

Subject: Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) Payments & Authorisation

Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Act we can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold some information to which your request relates and this is being provided to you.

We further consider the information you seek in Question numbers 2 and 3 exempt by virtue of Sections 23, 24, 30, 31 and 40 of FOIA and have detailed our rationale as to why this exemption applies. We have also provided you with links to guidance issued by the Information Commissioner's Office which we have followed in responding to your request.

Question 1

For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please provide a value for how much the police force has spent on CHIS, providing a breakdown for each FY

Answer 1

2021/2022 - £362,285
2022/2023 - £391,416
2023/2024 - £385,395
2024/2025 - £382,459

Please note that PSNI is not in a position to provide the figure for 25/26 at this moment as finances are reconciled at the end of each financial year.

Question 2

For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please state how many CHIS authorisations were granted to the police force, providing a breakdown for each FY

Question 3

For the financial years 21/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 (so far) please state how much the police force has spent on CHIS related to Palestine protest groups, providing a breakdown for each FY

Answers 2 and 3

Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Police Service of Northern Ireland, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- states that fact,
- specifies the exemption in question and
- states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) can Neither Confirm Nor Deny that it holds the information relevant to your requests as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 23(5) – Information Supplied By Or Concerning Certain Security Bodies: The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3)

Section 24(2) National Security – The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, exemption from section 1(1) (a) is required for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

Section 30(3) - Investigations – the duty to confirm or deny does not arise in relation to information which is (or if it were held by the public authority would be) exempt information by virtue of subsection (1) or (2).

Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement: The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would or would be likely to, prejudice any of the matters mentioned in subsection (1).

The full text of exemptions can be found at www.legislation.gov.uk and further guidance on how they operate can be located on the Information Commissioners Office website www.ico.org.uk.

‘Neither Confirm nor Deny’ (NCND)

There may be occasions when complying with the duty to confirm or deny under section 1(1)(a) would in itself disclose sensitive or potentially damaging information that falls under an exemption. In these circumstances, the Act allows a public authority to respond by refusing to confirm or deny whether it holds the requested information.

The decision to issue a ‘neither confirm nor deny’ response is not affected by whether we do or do not hold the information but relates to the consequences of confirming or denying the information is held. The starting point and main focus in most cases will be theoretical considerations about the consequences of confirming or denying that a particular type of information held. The decision to neither confirm nor deny is separate from a decision not to disclose information and needs to be taken entirely on its own merits.

PSNI follow the information Commissioner’s Guidance in relation to ‘NCND’ and you may find it helpful to refer to this at the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi/guide-to-managing-an-foi-request/exemptions>

Please note that PSNI is withholding Question 1 under S23(1), S24(1), S30(2)(b) and S31 (1), Question 2 under S30(2)(b) and Question 3 under NCND s23(5), s24(2), s30(3), s31(3), s40(5).

Section 40 is a class based exemption; therefore it is not necessary to carry out a public interest test.

40(5B)(a)(i) - Personal Information

Information disclosed under the FOIA is disclosed into the public domain, effectively to the world and not just to one individual. To confirm or deny whether personal information exists in response to your request could publicly reveal information about an individual or individuals, thereby breaching the right to protection of their personal information afforded to them under the Data Protection Act 2018. When confirming or denying that information is held would breach an individual’s rights under the Data Protection Act legislation, section 40 (5) becomes an absolute exemption, and there is no requirement to provide evidence of a prejudice occurring, or to conduct

a public interest test. To confirm or deny that the PSNI hold or do not hold information would in fact confirm information about an individual including the fact it may or may not be held. This would amount to a release into the public domain of personal information about an individual. The individual would have no expectation that these details would be released into the public domain, therefore their data protection rights would be breached by release.

PSNI considers the information you have requested is exempt by virtue of Neither Confirm nor Deny exemptions which PSNI is entitled to rely upon. This should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.

The release of information under Freedom of Information (FOI) is a release into the public domain and not just to the individual requesting the information. Once information is disclosed by FOI there is no control or limits as to who or how the information is shared with other individuals, therefore a release under FOI is considered a disclosure to the world in general.

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest. Confirming or denying the existence of whether any information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out within Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in that this stipulates a generic bar on disclosure of any information applied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies.

Section 24 is a qualified exemption and as such there is a requirement to evidence any harm in confirmation or denial that any other information is held, as well as consider the public interest.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption and consideration of the public interest must be given as to whether neither confirming nor denying information exists is the appropriate response.

Sections 31 is a prejudice based and qualified there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or not whether information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Harm for NCND

There is considerable harm attributed to the confirmation or denial that any other information is held in relation to police confidential sources. Such information would not exist had Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) not been required to participate in the effective investigation of criminal matters. The information would only be held if it were obtained and recorded by the force for the purpose of its functions in relation to criminal investigations.

Any disclosure such as in this request that may reduce the flow of information to the Police Service and intelligence agencies would have a substantial prejudicial impact on the ability of such authorities to collect reliable and accurate intelligence. Furthermore, law enforcement bodies would become dependent on more costly and time consuming methods of collecting intelligence. Whilst it may not be seen by the public to be wholly acceptable to offer payments to individuals who are close to criminal activity, CHIS are often the most valuable sources of information and enable the police and other agencies to secure evidence and subsequent prosecutions.

Covert Human Intelligence Sources (regardless of their motivation) provide information at particular personal risk to themselves and their families. As previous cases have shown, where a CHIS is identified it can result in substantial physical harm, or mental trauma resulting from the threat of physical harm. This problem is particularly acute in cases relating to serious crime and terrorism where the threat against individuals is substantial.

The use of CHIS is regulated by the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act which requires authorities to take into account the provisions of the Human Rights Act when using CHIS (and other covert techniques). Police forces are reminded of their obligation under Article 2 of the Human

Rights Act which requires them to protect human life. This is further supported by a High Court hearing *Van Colle v Chief Constable Hertfordshire Police*. In this case the force concerned failed to provide adequate protection to an individual whose life was at risk because of the criminal acts of a third party. The witness was murdered by a person whom he was about to give evidence against in a criminal trial.

Those determined to identify informants have the ability to use small pieces of information in order to build a more complete picture and it is the cumulative effect of information disclosures that the Police Service feel will lead to this prejudice being realised.

Covert Human Intelligence Sources (regardless of their motivation) provide information at particular personal risk to themselves and their families. As previous cases have shown, where a CHIS is identified it can result in substantial physical harm, or mental trauma resulting from the threat of physical harm. This problem is particularly acute in cases relating to serious crime and terrorism where the threat against individuals is substantial. To confirm or deny any additional information would place those individual(s), if any, at an increased risk from danger as detailed above.

It may be viewed by those not involved in the management of informants that a statistical number in itself is unlikely to cause any such adverse effects. However, the subject has to be viewed more holistically. Those determined to identify informants have the ability to use small pieces of information in order to build a more complete picture and it is the cumulative effect of information disclosures that the Police Service feel will lead to this prejudice being realised.

Confirming or denying any additional information exists could impact on the recruitment and retention of CHIS in general, due to the perception of (rather than the actual) risk of identification. In an Information Tribunal case relating to the payments made to CHIS in Croydon (EA/2010/0006), it was accepted that this argument applied as much to CHIS providing intelligence in relation to national security concerns as to CHIS engaged in countering more traditional criminal threats. In this way, the disclosure of payment information would damage national security through discouraging current national security CHIS from co-operating with the Police Service in other geographical areas, or preventing the recruitment of national security CHIS in the future - regardless of whether the area in question actually currently runs CHIS reporting on serious crime, terrorist or other threats.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial – Section 24(2)

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and by confirming or denying that this information is held would allow them to see where money is being spent and know that PSNI is undertaking its duty to robustly tackle any form of activity relevant to this request. The information simply relates to national security and disclosure would not actually harm it.

Factors Against Confirmation or Denial - Section 24(2)

Confirmation of any policing arrangements of this nature would render security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infrastructure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public. To counter this, a full review of security measures would be needed and additional costs would be incurred.

By confirming or denying any policing arrangements of this nature would render national security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Section 24 (2) – Balancing/Decision

While PSNI recognises the importance of transparency and accountability in policing, these interests must be weighed against the risk that confirming or denying the requested information could

prejudice national security interests. The release of this information could be combined with other material to form an intelligence picture that would be useful to those intent on causing harm or undermining lawful operations.

In this instance the PSNI considers that the public interest in protecting national security, maintaining operational effectiveness and safeguarding individuals outweighs the public interest in confirming or denying if this information is held.

Factors Favouring Disclosure - Section 30(2)

There is information within the public domain confirming that police use covert human intelligence sources to assist them with investigations and the effective delivery of law enforcement. Disclosure would enhance the public's knowledge about how information relating to informants is used by police and how the intelligence received assists in day-to-day investigations and operations to assist the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. Disclosure would also assist in stopping any incorrect rumours or falsehoods relating to how the police store and manage how informants assist the police. It would also allow the public to determine whether the financial outlay by the force to informants is appropriate in comparison to the level of successful prosecutions.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure - Section 30(2)

Disclosure of the information requested could identify informant activity within a force area. Over a period of time if several disclosures were made, individuals could analyse the information and identify any sudden peaks or troughs in informant activity. This would hinder the prevention and detection of crime and also prejudice our ability to maintain confidential sources. Consequently, the force's future law enforcement capabilities would be affected. Similarly, the disclosure of the information would highlight when informants have been used which could place those persons, or those suspected of being an informant, in danger. The disclosure of this information would lead to informants losing confidence in the PSNI and would impede the recruitment of informants in the future.

Section 30 (2) – Balancing/Decision

There is information within the public domain confirming that police use covert human intelligence sources to assist them with investigations and the effective delivery of law enforcement. The Police Service is tasked with protecting the community we serve and solving crime and there is a public interest argument in ensuring we are open and transparent regarding policing investigations and operations. There is no doubt that for the issues outlined above any disclosure relating to sensitive informant information would jeopardise those important roles. Informants play a vital role in assisting the police and is based very much on relationships built on trust and the expectation of complete confidentiality. PSNI would never disclose information which would compromise our tactics. It is therefore our opinion that the balance lies in favour of non-disclosure of the information.

Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial - Section 30(3)

The confirmation or denial that information is held by PSNI would provide a greater insight into policing and how resources are allocated to investigate crimes. The confirmation or denial that any other information is or is not held would identify how often PSNI utilise CHIS within this type of investigation.

Factors Against Confirmation or Denial - Section 30(3)

To confirm that PSNI have used informants with previous investigations and criminal convictions in specific investigations would provide sensitive information that would undermine policing and investigations.

Section 30 (3) – Balancing/Decision

It is the NPCC's (National Police Chiefs' Council) approach that information relating to investigations will rarely be disclosed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Whilst information may be released if it provides a tangible community benefit, for example to prevent or detect crime or to protect life or property, it is difficult to understand how the information here will do so. The public interest is not what interests the public but what will be of greater good if released to the community as a whole.

It is not in the public interest to disclose information that may compromise a public authority's ability to complete any investigation where disclosure may jeopardise future criminal proceedings linked to this or any other investigation. On this occasion the PSNI considers the balance of the public interest very strongly favours maintaining the NCND.

Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial - Section 31(3)

Confirming or denying whether PSNI holds information relevant to this request the public would see where public funds have been spent and allow the Police service to appear more open and transparent. PSNI is committed to openness and transparency with the general public. When a request for information is made, it is correct that the police make appropriate information available to the general public. The provision of information, through confirming or denying whether information relevant to this request is held would accordingly, reinforce our commitment to be an open and transparent organisation.

Factors Against Confirmation or Denial - Section 31(3)

By confirming or denying whether information is held could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder the prevention and detection of crime and impact on police resources which may need to be increased to reassure the public and protect the surrounding community. This would result in more risk to the public and consequently require the use of more police resources.

Section 31 (3) – Balancing/Decision

The points above highlight the merits of confirming, or denying, whether any information pertinent to this request exists. The Police Service of Northern Ireland is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. As part of that policing purpose, various tactical options, including the use of CHIS, may or may not be utilised. The PSNI will never divulge whether or not information pertinent to this request does or does not exist, if to do so would place the safety of an individual(s) at risk, compromise an ongoing investigation or undermine the policing purpose in the effective delivery of operational law enforcement.

Therefore, at this moment in time, it is our opinion that for these issues the balance test for confirming nor denying that information is held is appropriate.

However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me at the e-mail address listed below. When contacting the Corporate Information Branch, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you're dissatisfied with the outcome or how your Freedom of Information request was handled, you can ask for an internal review. Please submit your request for review in writing within 40 working days of receiving our initial response. Regrettably, reviews submitted after this timeframe cannot be accepted, in line with the Information Commissioner's guidance. Further information can be found at the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi/freedom-of-information-and-environmentalinformation->

[regulations/request-handling-freedom-of-information/](#)

In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Corporate Information Manager, Corporate Information Branch, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing CorporateInfoBranch@psni.police.uk.

If, following an Internal Review carried out by an independent decision maker, you remain unhappy about how your request has been handled you have the right to apply in writing to the Information Commissioner, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, at 'Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. There are a number of other platforms you can use to contact the ICO and these can be found on the ICO's website at the following link: [Make a complaint | ICO \(https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/\)](https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/).

In most circumstances, the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out however, the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at their discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnipolice.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.