

c/o PO BOX 481
Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922

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

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 127/2023

Thank you for your request for information regarding tenure and recruitment of Chief Constables, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

In 2018 there was a NPCC report into the tenure and recruitment of chief constables. It was commissioned by Sara Thornton and after it was completed, in September 2018, the following blog and joint statement were published:

<https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/police-chiefs-blog-cc-sara-thornton-who-wants-to-be-a-chief-constable>

<https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/roundtable-to-address-challenges-to-chief-officer-recruitment-and-retention>

Please can you provide me with a copy of this report, which is not currently available on your website.

*Please note: The exact title and date of the report were not made public.

NPCC Response:

Unfortunately it is unclear what recorded information you are seeking.

A public authority is entitled to treat a request as invalid where specific recorded information is not specified. Section 8(1) of the Act sets out the requirements of a valid request for information and says that a request must, amongst things, 'describe the information'.

The Freedom of Information Act affords anyone in the world the right to request information by a Public Authority. It does not cover thoughts and/or opinion, unless recorded and the Public Authority is under no obligation to create information to answer a request or to answer general questions.

The legislation places two key obligations on an authority that is covered by the Act when they are considering a request for information.



These obligations are set out in Section 1(1) and stipulate that when that authority receives a valid request (which is defined elsewhere in the Act) that authority must confirm what information is or is not held (S1(1)(a)) and,

if that information is held, it must be provided to the applicant unless it is considered to be exempt information (S1(1)(b)). It is therefore reasonable to assert that if we are unable to meet this obligation under S1(1) of the Act we are unable to confirm or deny what information is held by the NPCC.

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

In wishing to assist you, I have conducted searches across the NPCC and have located a document that I believe relates to the information provided within your request. This document was released previously by the NPCC by way of a Freedom of Information response which includes minor redaction. I have pleasure in providing this document by way of attachment, outside of the Act as a gesture of goodwill.

Sherry Traquair

NPCC Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

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

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

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

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

Annex A

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.