



CIVIL NUCLEAR CONSTABULARY

Email: [REDACTED]

The Executive Office
Civil Nuclear Constabulary
Building F6 Culham Science Centre
Abingdon
Oxon
OX14 3DB

Tel: 01235 466428

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/cnc>

Our Ref: 2016-108

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing in response to your request for information regarding the below received on 10 August 2016. Your request has been handled under Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In accordance with Section 1(1) (a) of the Act I hereby confirm that the CNC/CNPA does hold information of the type specified.

The proposal to “merge” The Civil Nuclear Constabulary (“CNC”) and The Ministry of Defence Police (“MDP”) and British Transport Police (“BTP”) to create a new Police Force (Or two Forces) to be financed by The Home Office rather than the respective industries or “customers”, potentially also incorporating UK Border Agency and even Highways England [civilian / non-police] Traffic Officers is well advanced;- Please confirm that you hold recorded information on the proposed merger / formation of a National Infrastructure Constabulary (whether armed or otherwise) and that such information can be disclosed pursuant to The Freedom of Information Act and subsequently please disclose the information dating from 2015 and/or 2016 that you hold (subject to redaction where the presence of personal data requires) which relates to the potential merger of the CNC; MDP and BTP.

I am writing to confirm that the CNC/CNPA holds the information on the subject you have requested. However, I have to advise that as you have been unable to specify which data you are specifically seeking, in order to determine what information is held by the authority would exceed the cost threshold and we will not be able to answer your request without exceeding the appropriate limit.

This is because to retrieve all the information you have requested would involve searching either manually and electronically in various places across the CNC/CNPA and CNC/CNPA, and any written or received information by approximately 1600 employees. We estimate this would take about 1 hour for each employee to search for the information in scope of your request, and in excess of a total of 1600 hours.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours in determining whether the department holds the information, and locating, retrieving and extracting it.

The CNC/CNPA may be able to provide some information in scope of your request if you reduce or refine your request to bring the cost of compliance under the limit. Please contact me if you would like to refine your request or require advice on doing so. Please note that if you simply break your request down into a series of similar smaller requests, we might still decline to answer it if the total cost exceeds 18 hours. Similarly, if you do decide to submit a refined request for information please note that other exemptions in the FOI Act may apply.

The Civil Nuclear Constabulary is a specialist armed police service dedicated to the civil nuclear industry, with Operational Policing Units based at 11 civil nuclear sites in England, Scotland and Wales and over 1400 police officers and staff. The Constabulary headquarters is at Culham in Oxfordshire. The civil nuclear industry forms part of the UK's critical national infrastructure and the role of the Constabulary contribute to the overall framework of national security.

The purpose of the Constabulary is to protect licensed civil nuclear sites and to safeguard nuclear material in transit. The Constabulary works in partnership with the appropriate Home Office Police Force or Police Scotland at each site. Policing services required at each site are agreed with nuclear operators in accordance with the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and ratified by the UK regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Armed policing services are required at most civil nuclear sites in the United Kingdom. The majority of officers in the Constabulary are Authorised Firearms Officers.

The Constabulary is recognised by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS). Through the National Coordinated Policing Protocol, the Constabulary has established memorandums of understanding with the local police forces at all 10 Operational Policing Units. Mutual support and assistance enable the Constabulary to maintain focus on its core role.

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will investigate the matter and endeavour to reply within 3 – 6 weeks. You should write in the first instance to:

Sarah Shevlin
Disclosures Officer
CNC
Culham Science Centre
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 3DB

E-mail: FOI@cnc.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by the CNPA.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you require any further assistance in connection with this request please contact us at our address below:

Sarah Shevlin
Disclosures Officer
CNC
Culham Science Centre
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 3DB

E-mail: FOI@cnc.pnn.police.uk

Yours sincerely

Sarah Shevlin
Disclosures Officer