



CIVIL NUCLEAR CONSTABULARY

The Executive Office

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Building F6 Culham Science Centre

Abingdon

Oxon

OX14 3DB

Tel: 03303 135400

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

21st July 2025

Dear Requester

I am writing in response to your request for information regarding the below. 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.

Your Request:

Request for Information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (â€˜FOIAâ€™™)

Information on late payment

This is a request under FOIA for details of instances in which Civil Nuclear Constabulary (including, where applicable, any agencies, bodies, or units for which it is ultimately responsible for supplier payments) has failed to pay its suppliers on time, thereby causing liabilities for late payment compensation and/or interest on late payments to be incurred for the public purse.

As the Government has made clear, late payment remains a significant issue for business and a drag on the UK economy as a whole. It is clear that, despite what the law says, many suppliers have not received timely payment or the interest and compensation for late payment to which they are entitled by statute.

Public authorities must keep information on payment in order to comply with their legal obligations, and there is a public interest in

ensuring both compliance and that unpaid interest and compensation is recovered from public authorities. If proper records are kept as they ought to be, then information in this respect ought readily to be available.

The information requested below is not confidential, and its disclosure under FOIA is not capable of adversely affecting any party's commercial interests. This is because this request is aimed at data about late payment liabilities that have in fact arisen: the disclosure of this data cannot cause any additional liability to arise. We therefore do not anticipate any reasonable grounds for refusing this request.

In any event, there is strong public interest in transparency about these matters. Relevant factors in this respect include: enhancing public understanding and scrutiny of issues of significant importance to stewardship of the public purse and to economic growth; facilitating an informed debate about compliance by your authority with its contractual obligations and with Government policy; helping businesses that suffer from late payment (many of which are small and medium-sized enterprises), and encouraging improvements in payment practices by public authorities such as yours.

Request

With the above points in mind, we request under FOIA that you provide, (preferably in Microsoft Excel or an equivalent machine-readable format) the following information in respect of suppliers which were not paid in within 30 days for the period starting 1 April 2019 to the date of this request:

- 1. Supplier Name**
- 2. Invoice Date**
- 3. Gross Invoice Value**
- 4. Payment Date**
- 5. Late Payment Compensation or Interest Paid (if any)**

CNC Response:

Please find attached a list of late payments. We are unable to provide any details on late payment compensation or interest paid as we do not have a report option for this and it is not possible to do it manually. Please note some late payments are exempt under Section 40 Personal Information, Section 24 National Security and Section 38(1) Health and Safety.

Section 40

The information is exempt under Section 40 (Personal Information) of the Freedom of Information Act. As the information constitutes third party data, Section 40(2) provides that personal data about third parties is exempt information if one of the conditions set out in Section 40(3) is satisfied. Under the Freedom of Information Act, disclosure of this information would breach the fair processing principle contained in the Data Protection Act (DPA), where it would be unfair to the people to have their personal data released under these circumstances. This exemption is absolute with no public interest test necessary.

Exemption S24 National Security and S38(1) Health and Safety.

The threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It is generally recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. Since 2006 the UK Government has published the threat level based upon current intelligence and that threat is currently at “substantial”. The release of this level of detail into the public domain is likely to assist potential terrorists, thus seriously threatening national security. Members of the criminal fraternity are also likely to benefit from the disclosure as it will increase the publicly available knowledge of the capabilities of the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, potentially making it easier to commit offences. Disclosure of the information would also assist with the disruption and avoidance of any police response to an unlawful activity, whether that activity is terrorist related or not.

The disclosure would therefore be likely to make it easier to commit offences and would also inevitably endanger the safety of those persons working at the sites, members of surrounding communities and also police officers.

Public Interest Test

Considerations favouring disclosure under Section 24

Disclosure of the information requested would enable the public to gauge the efficiency and effectiveness of the plans in place to prevent and detect potential terrorist activity. The public are entitled to know how the police service undertakes its duties to be reassured that forces are doing as much as possible to combat terrorism.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 24

Disclosure of full information requested, could be of intelligence value to a person or persons with criminal or malicious intent. Full disclosure could provide and enable targeted malicious actions, be that some form of attack

on an operational unit, or avoiding that unit for example where strengths and weakness may be perceived (whether incorrectly or not).

Such a disclosure would allow those with criminal intent the ability to build up a mosaic picture of force capabilities and resources and use this information to undermine national security. This places the community at increased unnecessary risk of harm and impacts on police resources if additional resources and tactics need to be put in place to counter any harm caused by an adverse FOIA disclosure.

Considerations favouring disclosure under Section 38

The public are entitled to know how the police service allocate public funds, therefore by disclosing this information would lead to better informed public awareness and debate. Disclosure of the information would assist communities to be more aware of the level of protection afforded to them as they would have a better understanding of our Capabilities.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure under Section 38

Public safety is of paramount importance to the police service and its partner agencies. In this case the disclosure of information may assist terrorists to further their aims by violent means, thus putting the safety of members of the public and police officers at risk. Whilst wishing to embrace the ethos of information disclosure, this cannot take precedence over public safety.

The disclosure of information designed to safeguard the public is also likely to lead to a loss of confidence in the Constabulary's ability to protect the well-being of the community.

Balance Test

Whilst I acknowledge that there is a legitimate public interest in disclosing the information requested, the Police Service will not divulge information if to do so will prejudice national security or place the safety of any individual at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and in this case providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed the risk of terrorism and other more common forms of criminality, there is a strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of the police in this highly sensitive area.

Having weighed up the competing arguments, I have concluded that on this occasion the public interest is best served by maintaining the exemptions afforded by Sections 24 and 38. I have therefore decided to refuse to release this information.

Context:

The Civil Nuclear Constabulary is a specialist armed police service dedicated to the civil nuclear industry, with Operational Policing Units based at 10 civil nuclear sites in England and Scotland and over 1600 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 contributes 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. 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 request an internal review. We will investigate the matter and aim to reply within 3 to 6 weeks. You should write, in the first instance to:

Kristina Keefe
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 expect you to have exhausted the internal review procedure 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 using the details provided above.

Yours sincerely

Kristina Keefe

Disclosures Officer