



## WEST MERCIA PCC: DISCLOSURE LOG RESPONSE TO REQUEST

**Reference: 2018 – 178/WE0850**

**Date of response: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018**

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST**

#### **Freedom of Information Request.**

Dear West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner,

On the 9th October 2018 it was released that you and the Chief Constable have informed Warwickshire Police & PCC that the strategic alliance was ending and gave appropriate notice thereof. Please can you provide the following;

- 1) A copy of any final report from your office to the Chief Constable of West Mercia around the decision to withdraw from the alliance, report to include analysis of risks vs. benefits etc.
- 2) A copy of any internal communication between your office and the Chief Constable surrounding the separation decision being made in the week leading to the 9th October 2018
- 3) A copy of any internal communication between your office, the PCC for Warwickshire Police and the two respective Chief Constables in the week leading to the 9th October 2018 and the immediate day after.
- 4) A financial estimate of the cost to separate the alliance, ie the cost to West Mercia Police for changes to systems, additional staff as a result of leaving the alliance.
- 5) A financial prediction of the proposed savings that withdrawal from the alliance will give to West Mercia police for the next four years, ie what do you believe that you will save.

#### **Response.**

Dear Sir,

Please see the below response to your requests.

We are unable to provide a response to questions 1, 2 and 3 as they are exempt under Sections 42 (1) and 43 (2).

Section 42 Legal Professional privilege (1) of the Act states "Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege or, in Scotland, to confidentiality of communications could be maintained in legal proceedings is exempt information.

Section 43 Commercial interests (2) of the Act states "Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it)".

We are unable to provide a response to question 4 as we do not hold any specific information. There is currently no total estimated cost for ending the two force alliance. There has been some work done to ascertain what should be included for day to day running costs, revenue and budget and one-off costs such as capital investment. But work is still ongoing in relation to other business areas that will take significant research for example separating out the ICT infrastructure.

It is anticipated that two separate project teams, one for each force, is to review modelling and accounting options for each force post October 2019 and this will provide the Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables choices to negotiate on and decide between. The chosen option will dictate the budget and costs to be incurred.

In response to question 5, the potential costs are variable depending upon the outcome and will not be disclosed under Section 43(2).

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write to the Information Compliance Unit; Information Compliance Unit, PO Box 55, Worcester, WR3 8SP. Email: [information@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:information@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

Yours sincerely,

**FOI Officer**

## **Complaints**

If you think that the Police and Crime Commissioner has failed to supply information in accordance with the publication scheme, then you should write in the first instance, to the:

Chief Executive, OPCC – West Mercia, Hindlip Hall, Worcester. WR3 8SP

The PCC will aim to deal with your complaint within 10 working days. If you are dissatisfied with the response you can ask for the matter to be internally reviewed. Internal reviews will be completed promptly and a response given to you within 20 working days of your further request.

If, after the internal review, you remain dissatisfied, then you can complain to the Information Commissioner (Office of the Information Commissioner), Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF).