



Humberside Police  
Corporate Development Branch  
Information Compliance Unit  
Priory Road  
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HU5 5SF  
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Your Ref:  
Our Ref: F-2013-00222

25 March, 2013

Dear XXXX

**FREEDOM of INFORMATION ACT 2000 Reference No: F-2013-00222**

Thank you for your request for Information, received at this office on 08 February, 2013, in which you requested details of the following:

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

**The Association of Chief Police Officers' 2012 UK National Problem Profile for the Commercial Cultivation of Cannabis report states that 7865 cannabis farms were detected around the UK in 2011/12.**

**Following a Freedom of Information request to ACPO for the address of each cannabis farm and information as to when each was last raided by the police, I was informed that this information was held by individual force areas who supplied it to ACPO in order for them to compile the Problem Profile.**

**ACPO suggested I apply to each individual force for the information I require, hence this request.**

**Q1: (a) I would therefore be grateful if you could provide the address of each cannabis farm discovered in your force area in 2011/12 and (b) advise when each cannabis farm was last raided by your force.**

The Freedom of Information Act requires that this request is dealt with in a manner that is motive and applicant blind. A disclosure under this legislation is considered a disclosure to the world and is considered to be on the basis that it is in the public interest.

This response is unique to Humberside Police and you are advised not to compare this like for like with any other force's response you receive.

#### Humberside Police Response

Humberside Police can confirm that it has 68 addresses that have been confirmed as falling into the definition of a 'cannabis farms'. However it has been determined in order to disclose the addresses would engage s40(2) and section 30(1)(a) of the Act. Section 30(1)(a) is also applicable to when the cannabis farms were last raided.

*Chief Constable* T. S. Hollis CBE, QPM    *Deputy Chief Constable* D. J. Griffin MA

*Assistant Chief Constable (Operations Support)* A. Leaver    *Assistant Chief Constable (Operations)* S. M. Donald MA

*Assistant Chief Officer (Support)* P. S. Goatley BA (Hons), CPFA    *Assistant Chief Officer (Human Resources)* I. Watson MBA, MSc, FCIPD

Web site: [www.humberside.police.uk](http://www.humberside.police.uk)

As section 40(2) is an absolute exemption I am not required to conduct a Public Interest Test (PIT).

It has been determined that to provide the addresses would be neither be fair or lawful as to do so would breach the first principle of the Data Protection Act 1998. The reason for this is that these addresses will have individuals living at these addresses or individuals will be linked to these addresses which constitutes their personal data.

As section 30 is a Qualified Class based exemption I am required to conduct a public interest test but it has already been determined that there would be harm in disclosure.

#### Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the addresses would show transparency in how police resources are allocated to dealing with cannabis farms and how prevalent the problem is in this force area.

#### Factors Favouring Non Disclosure

The addresses for the cannabis farms form part of the police investigation and to disclose the addresses would undermine those investigations. The addresses will likely have had surveillance attached to them at some point and the addresses and potential occupants will form part of intelligence. This information will be used as part of a police investigation, of which many will still be ongoing and therefore to disclose address details and when they were raided would undermine the police investigations.

#### Balance Test

Although there is some public benefit in the public knowing the exact addresses and date of the raid on each cannabis farm this is outweighed by the harm that disclosure will do to police investigations. If routine disclosures were made of cannabis farms addresses and raid date this would have a negative longer term impact on how the police deal with police investigations in the future. The benefit to the community is not served were police investigations are not carried out properly due an erosion of confidentiality while those investigations are ongoing.

In a duty to assist, a Google search does reference addresses were Humberside Police have located Cannabis Farms were these investigations have concluded.

#### Partial NCND

Humberside Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds any other information with regard to an exempt body as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 23(5) Information supplied by, or concerning, certain Security Bodies

Section 23 is a class based absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

Confirming or denying the existence of whether any other information is held would contravene the constrictions laid out with 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.

Should you need to discuss this further please contact James Green, Information Compliance Officer on the above details.

Yours sincerely,

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James Green  
Information Compliance Officer

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File classification: NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED - NO DESCRIPTOR

## Humberside Police – Freedom of Information Complaints Review Procedure

### Why Have A Complaints Process?

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Humberside Police is committed to delivering an open and transparent service whenever possible and it is our intention to commit to the principles of openness embodied in the Freedom of Information Act. We will release information to the greatest extent possible, consistent with the public interest, however we may withhold information if we consider its release would cause significant harm.

If information within a document is withheld, it will be clearly marked to show where information has been removed and the legal exemption we have used. If we decline to supply all or part of any information you have asked for we will notify you in writing giving our reasons based upon legal exemptions contained within the Freedom of Information Act.

If you are not satisfied about the way in which your Freedom of Information request has been handled you have the right to appeal. This information has been designed to help you to understand how to complain to Humberside Police. Using this process will not affect your right to complain directly to the Information Commissioner if you feel we have not complied with our obligations under the Freedom of Information Act.

### Who Can Complain?

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Anyone who has made a Freedom of Information request in writing to the Force can complain. If you have requested information and you are not satisfied with the way we have dealt with it, you can use the complaints process to have it looked at again. If someone who requested information would like to complain but cannot do so themselves, you can complain on their behalf but it will help us if you make it clear that you are doing so.

### What Can I Complain About?

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If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your request, with the fee we have charged, or with the reasons we have given for refusing to provide information, you have the right to appeal. You can complain about the range, amount and format of information we have sent following a request. You can also complain about the way a request was handled, for example, the time it took to respond.

### How Do I Complain?

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To deal with your complaint as quickly as possible, it will help if you can give us as much information as you can about the original request made and the reason for your complaint. Please put your complaint in writing and address it to:

FOI Appeals  
[Humberside Police Information Compliance Unit](#)  
Police Headquarters  
Priory Road  
Hull HU5 5SF

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## What Happens To My Complaint?

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Once we have enough details to identify the request, we will begin the review. The Head of The Information Compliance Unit will normally review your complaint. In the more complex cases a review panel consisting of a number of senior personnel from the Force will re-examine your complaint. We aim to complete the review process within 20 days of receiving your complaint. Upon completion we will send you the findings.

## How Will I Be Notified?

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Where we have not followed procedures or have failed to provide acceptable quality of service, we will apologise and explain what we will do to ensure this doesn't happen again. If our original decision to withhold information is over-turned on appeal we will send you the additional information immediately. If we believe that our original response was correct we will let you know, and inform you of your options (see below).

## What If I'm Still Not Satisfied?

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If we have been unable to resolve your complaint and you are not satisfied you can approach the office of the Information Commissioner, who may investigate the matter on your behalf. This option is open to you at all times, but we will endeavour to address your complaint initially, as this may lead to a speedier resolution. It is the Information Commissioner who decides whether to investigate or not. We will co-operate fully with the Information Commissioner.

If you have any further questions about the complaints process, please contact the Information Compliance Unit on 01482 317097 or alternatively you can write to:

*Head of Information Compliance Unit*  
*Humberside Police Headquarters*  
*Priory Road*  
*Hull HU5 5SF*  
*Email: [Informationcomplianceunit@humberside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Informationcomplianceunit@humberside.pnn.police.uk)*

Requests for a review by the Information Commissioner should be made in writing directly to:

*The Information Commissioner*  
*Wycliffe House*  
*Water Lane*  
*Wilmslow*  
*Cheshire*  
*SK9 5AF*  
**Phone: 01625 545 700**  
**[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)**

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