



Freedom of Information Request

REQUEST NUMBER: HC/002585/16

KEYWORD: Finance

Request	Response
What is the amount that was paid to Police Informants (covert human intelligence sources) by Hampshire Constabulary during the following periods?	2011/12 £110,618.52. 2012/13 £66,710.69. 2013/14 £88,407.06 2014/15 £104,650.95 2015/16 £59,765.92
April 2011 - March 2012	
April 2012 - March 2013	
April 2013 - March 2014	
April 2014 - March 2015	
April 2015 - March 2016	

Additional Information

Hampshire Constabulary 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 24(2) National Security

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

Section 24 is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

Evidence of Harm Section 24

Disclosure of informants data could impact on the recruitment and retention of CHIS in general, due to the perception of (rather than the actual) risk of identification. In an Information Tribunal case relating to the payments made to CHIS in Croydon (EA/2010/0006), it was accepted that this argument applied as much to CHIS providing intelligence in relation to national security concerns as to CHIS engaged in countering more traditional criminal threats. In this way, the disclosure of the requested information would damage national security through discouraging current national security CHIS from cooperating with the Police Service in other geographical areas, or preventing the recruitment of national security CHIS in the future – regardless of whether the area in question actually currently runs CHIS reporting on serious crime, terrorist or other threats.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirming or denying that any other information is held for Section 24	Factors against confirming or denying that any other information is held for Section 24
Confirmation or denial that any other information exists relevant to the request would lead to a better informed public and the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent. The information simply relates to national security and disclosure would not actually harm it.	Other organisations outside the Police Service are also widely engaged in rewarding informants in a number of ways, and therefore by confirming or denying that any other information exists relevant to the request would harm the close relationship that exists with such organisations, where trust and confidence in this specific area has been built up in the exchange of information and financial assistance during the criminal justice process. To confirm or deny whether Hampshire Constabulary holds any additional information would allow inferences to be made about the nature and extent of national security related activities which may or may not take place in a given area. This could enable terrorist groups to take steps to avoid detection, and as such, confirmation or denial would be damaging to national security. By confirming or denying any policing arrangements of this nature would render national security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

Balance Test for Section 24

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities it serves. The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police Service will not divulge whether information is or is not held if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine national security. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the Police Service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat from criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and the integrity of police investigations and operations in this highly sensitive area. As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances.

It is therefore my opinion that in this case, the balancing test for confirming or not that information is held is not made out.