

The Act creates a statutory right of access to information held by public authorities. A public authority in receipt of a request must, if permitted, confirm if the requested information is held by that public authority and, if so, then communicate that information to the applicant.

The right of access to information is not without exception and is subject to a number of exemptions which are designed to enable public authorities to withhold information that is not suitable for release. Importantly, the Act is designed to place information into the public domain, that is, once access to information is granted to one person under the Act, it is then considered public information and must be communicated to any individual should a request be received.

In accordance with the Act, this response represents a Partial Refusal Notice for this particular request under Section 17(1)&(4) of the Act.

Constituents of this information attract section 31 and 40 of the Act.

Please see the Legal Annex for the sections of the Act that are referred to in this response.

The MPS can provide information which answers both question 1 and 2 of this response.

This information can be accessed via the link to the MPS external website, provided below.

<http://content.met.police.uk/News/Man-given-a-five-year-ASBO/1400033211719/1257246745756>

In case you have any difficulty with the link, I have provided you with another link to information in the public domain.

http://www.enfieldindependent.co.uk/news/13595919.Man_given_ASBO_for_organising_illegal_raves/

REASONS FOR DECISION

Some of the information you have requested is exempt by the virtue of Section 31(1)(a)(b) & (3) of the Act.

Section 31(1) of the Act is applied to information, that if it was disclosed, would or would be likely to cause significant harm to the functions of a public authority (in this instance the MPS) and Section 31(3) is applied if to confirm or deny that information is held would prejudice any of the matters in subsection (1).

Section 31(1) is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to articulate the harm that would be caused, as well as carrying out a public interest test (PIT) for both subsections (1) and (3).

The purpose of the PIT is to establish whether the 'Public Interest' lies in disclosing or withholding the requested information for subsection (1) and to articulate the harm that would be caused in confirming or denying that any information is held for subsection (3).

Section 31(1) Evidence of Harm

You have asked whether Superintendent Adrian Coombes from Essex Police notified the MPS of certain events.

There is sufficient information within the public domain which confirms the sharing of information by police forces and certain law enforcement agencies and partners. To confirm what information has been shared and by whom, will affect the prevention and detection of crime, which is the core function of the MPS. The disclosure of specific information will affect the law enforcement and tactical approaches undertaken by the MPS.

Public Interest Test

Section 31(1) Public interest considerations favouring disclosure

Disclosing and confirming intelligence could promote public trust in providing transparency and demonstrating openness and accountability into where the MPS spends public funds. This transparency would provide a better awareness to the general public regarding this type of sharing of information to prevent crime. Disclosure can aid accurate debate around the use of MPS resources and the MPS's