

Freedom of Information Request Reference No: 2011100004407

I respond in connection with your request for information which was received by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) on 28/10/2011. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. Can you confirm or deny that, in the time period mentioned above, the Police Central e-crime Unit has investigated material considered to be media (e.g. blogs, news websites, Twitter feeds, etc.) and/or investigations into those involved in the media as a result of any media-related activities that were found to not be illegal. NB: this should include: contentious content that journalists and bloggers have produced; instances where journalists or bloggers have been investigated as a result of questioning police officers; and instances where the practice, behaviour, content-output or potential content-output has been the subject of investigation but subsequently found to not be illegal.
2. If the above is confirmed, could you please state how many investigations of this nature have taken place in: (a) 2010; (b) 01 January - 30 September 2011.

Redefined on 01/11/2011 as:

Please state how many times the Police Central e-crime Unit have investigated (or started investigations) into online media or journalists during the time periods: (a) 2010; (b) 01 January - 30 September 2011.

NB: "online media or journalists" should include news websites, blogs, Twitter feeds, etc, or the authors of this media who are investigated for reasons relating to that media. It should include contentious content that journalists and bloggers have produced; instances where journalists or bloggers have been investigated as a result of questioning police officers etc for their future media output; and instances where the practice, behaviour, content-output or potential content-output has been the subject of investigation but subsequently found to not be illegal.

To locate the information relevant to your request searches were conducted within the Specialist Crime Directorate - Police Central e-crime Unit (PCeU).

DECISION

I have today decided to disclose the located information to you in full.

The PCeU have not instigated or investigated any journalists or online media under the parameters expressed in the question.

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet which details your right of complaint.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please email or contact me on telephone number 020 7230 2003 quoting the reference number above.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Beaumont
SCD Information Manager**

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or do you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to require the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to review their decision.

Prior to lodging a formal complaint you are welcome and encouraged to discuss the decision with the case officer that dealt with your request.

Ask to have the decision looked at again –

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter.

That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the MPS made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can lodge a complaint with the MPS to have the decision reviewed.

Complaints should be made in writing, within forty (40) working days from the date of the refusal notice, and addressed to:

FOI Complaint
Public Access Office
PO Box 57192
London
SW6 1SF
PublicAccessOffice@met.police.uk

In all possible circumstances the MPS will aim to respond to your complaint within 20 working days.

The Information Commissioner

After lodging a complaint with the MPS if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website

at www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk. Alternatively, phone or write to:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Phone: 01625 545 700

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