

13 April 2026

FOI Ref 22731

Request: In response to your ICO appeal IC-405539-W4V9 requesting:

The exchanges with Surrey Police

The questions asked of other constabularies & their responses

The calculation undertaken showing that the costs are not covered by the fees presented

Your exchanges with the NPCC

Your consideration of RoA - right of access - and any exchanges on this insofar as disclosure of police reports is concerned.

22/05/2023 @ 09:07

Can you help us please with some steer/advice.

Surrey raised an issue that since the new ABI-NPCC agreement (attached) they are getting an increase in RoA* requests due to their compliance with the agreement in refusing requests from those who do not meet its expectations. It has prompted more discussion as this is work that has just been passed into my team and we have been working through the processes available, asking questions from other forces and many realising that their processes need reviewing. We are all now concerned by doing such it will push requests to RoA.

So based upon this new ABI-NPCC we have worked out that requests fall as on the attached word doc (ABI-NPCC workflows), it is the requests in red/box 4 that are the ones we are all becoming a bit stuck on. I have found a NPCC Disclosure policy (attached), which is not dated and no longer available on the College website & it alludes that the disclosures should be done but does not give a defined lawful basis. Whilst we can charge the charges do not now cover the costs to forces and certainly in Staffs we are looking at only do those disclosures that we have an obligation to do.

Any thoughts would be gratefully received as what none of us want to do is to refuse to do work that is not covered by the ABI-NPCC or by civil proceedings and then it results in being pushed to RoA.

I have copied below what is on the meeting notes as the query I originally received.

Hope all this makes sense but the general consensus is we could do with some NPCC help.

Many thanks in advance

Best wishes

S40(2)

Staffordshire Police (SP) received your request via the ICO on 02/04/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP does not hold the requested information.

- The exchanges with Surrey Police – **No information held. All general emails are retained on SP's system for 2 years however a small number of individuals' emails and group emails are kept for either 7 or 18 years (These are pre-defined and individuals are not able to select 7 or 18 years based upon the content of an email). All emails have been searched including the 7 and 18 year ones. There is not a method of corresponding with other police forces or the NPCC other than via email. Please find attached SP's email retention policy entitled 'FOI 22731 Email Retention Policy'**
- The questions asked of other constabularies & their responses – **No information held. All general emails are retained on SP's system for 2 years however a small number of individuals' emails and group emails are kept for either 7 or 18 years (These are pre-defined and individuals are not able to select 7 or 18 years based upon the content of an email). All emails have been searched including the 7 and 18 year ones. There is not a method of corresponding with other police forces or the NPCC other than via email. Please find attached SP's email retention policy entitled 'FOI 22731 Email Retention Policy'**
- The calculation undertaken showing that the costs are not covered by the fees presented – **No information held. There is no recorded information held by SP that specifically addresses this matter.**
- Your exchanges with the NPCC – **No information held. All general emails are retained on SP's system for 2 years however a small number of individuals' emails and group emails are kept for either 7 or 18 years (These are pre-defined and individuals are not able to select 7 or 18 years based upon the content of an email). All emails have been searched including the 7 and 18 year ones. There is not a method of corresponding with other police forces or the NPCC other than via email. Please find attached SP's email retention policy entitled 'FOI 22731 Email Retention Policy'**
- Your consideration of RoA - right of access - and any exchanges on this insofar as disclosure of police reports is concerned. – **No information held. Please note that all Right of Access requests are dealt with on a case-by-case basis in line with legislation and there is no exclusion of any particular request type, so no documented refusal process.**

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team