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5 May 2020

E-mail only:

Dear

FOI Request: 22/2020

I write in connection with your request for information received in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire on 4 May 2020, as follows:

I write with reference to anti cyclist bias in the Derbyshire force which has been very visible recently. What concerns me is that even in dealing with the original complaint about an inappropriate tweet, the person dealing it has demonstrated ignorance of the facts, and an anti cycling bias.

[Here](#) is a link to the article. I am sure that you will agree that the best approach to Policing, or any public policy, is based on evidence. In the article the officer investigating states:

"We fully appreciate that people have the right to daily exercise, but we were finding people travelling extensive distances into the county to do this. Our concern is the added burden this causes to the emergency services and health service should they be involved in an incident. "

I would like to enquire what evidence they have that additional strain to the emergency services is likely to be the outcome of people choosing to take their daily exercise through a bicycle ride? If this is enough of a problem to warrant public statements by the Police, I would imagine there must certainly be hard facts behind the policy.

Cycling is one of the most popular and effective forms of exercise, particularly in the target demographic for reduction of overweight and obesity, to decrease risk of heart disease, cancer, and diabetes, all of which put massive strain on the NHS.

Discouraging people from cycling, or implying in any way that the Police believe that cycling for exercise is irresponsible, or against the law, or spirit of lockdown legislation will, without any doubt, have adverse consequences on public health.

So this can only be a desirable outcome if the benefit of reduction in pressure on emergency services through reduction in accidents related to cycling, is greater than the consequence of Police discouragement of recreational cycling.

Please could you share with me the data which was analysed to make this conclusion. If this research was not done, then it would appear that Policing policy is done on the fly, without reference to facts, or evidence, and is therefore as likely to be counter-productive, as it is to be productive.

It would appear that Derbyshire Police are suffering from ignorance, and anti cycling bias. This is a great shame. I am a former Police Officer myself, and a member of a cycling team of which a number of members are serving Police Officers. Perhaps more of your officers should get out on bikes, and exercise their bodies and brains more, to operate to a higher standard, and stop bringing Policing into disrepute.'

This is to inform you that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire does not hold the information you have requested based on the information you have provided.

Derbyshire Constabulary may hold this information and I give below a link to the Force's website where you can make a FOI request to them direct.

<http://www.derbyshire.police.uk/About-us/Freedom-of-Information/How-to-Obtain.aspx>

If you are not satisfied with our response to your request, under Section 17 of the FOIA of the FOIA you are entitled to ask for an internal review of our decision. Any internal review needs to be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this response and state why you are unhappy with the response. You can submit an internal review in the following ways:

- emailing the OPCC Inbox – PCCOffice@Derbyshire.PNN.Police.UK or;
- writing to the OPCC at –
The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire
Butterley Hall
Ripley
Derbyshire
DE5 3RS

By phone – 0300 122 6000 (as a reasonable adjustment under the Equality Act 2010).

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal review under Section 50 of the FOIA you can apply directly to the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by the OPCC. You can contact the ICO in the following ways:

- online at the ICO – <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/> or;
- writing to the ICO at –
Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marie Romano', written in a cursive style.

Marie Romano
On behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner