

From:

Sent: 05 June 2013 00:18:04

To: SPOC Freedom Of Information

Cc:

Subject: FOI Request - Loss of Humberside Police Mounted Unit

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Dear Sir / Madam

Loss of Humberside Police Mounted Unit

We are writing to you to request the following information from the Humberside Police & Crime Commissioner under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

1. As Humberside will be commissioning mounted officers from other Police Authorities, the operational deployment of mounted officers is unchanged. The decision to axe the Humberside mounted division cannot therefore be operational and it has been stated that it is a cost-cutting exercise. Why is the PCC allowing the former Chief Constable to make decisions on what is clearly a matter for the PCC? Has the PCC reviewed and confirmed the decision of the former Chief Constable to disband the mounted section?
2. How much will it cost for the Humberside force to use the mounted units of other forces and how sensitive are the charges to increases in cost of transport and other overheads?
3. How much is the potential income for a retained Humberside Mounted Unit in supporting other forces?
4. Has a regional strategic review with other forces and PCCs taken place to ensure adequate capacity for provision in times of increased demand and if so, is this documentation in the public domain?
5. Is there a contingency plan in place for those occasions when horses from other units are required but not available, and if so, what is it and what would be the resultant costs?
6. What checks and balances are in place to ensure that charges for the hire of horses and officers are not inflated to increase revenue for the host forces?
7. What consideration with regards to animal welfare has been given, in light of the fact that horses being hired by the Humberside force will face considerable extra journey time and additional workload? Has expert opinion from equine veterinarians been sought and taken into account in the decision making process? Is any advice you have received in the public domain and if so, what is it?

8. Have livery yards been contacted to ascertain whether stabling costs could be reduced by benefiting from the economies of scale at establishments such as Bishop Burton College?
9. Has the possibility of a reduction in livery costs been considered, eg. through the use of volunteers and civilian support staff on the existing yard rather than warranted officers being engaged in non-policing activities such as stable management? If so, what is the saving that could be made?
10. Are there any contractual (eg. TUPE and constructive dismissal) or other employment legislation matters which will have an effect on budget regarding the redeployment of officers and other staff?

We would expect that the questions above have already received due consideration and that the answers should therefore be readily available. However, should this not be the case and the costs of processing the request exceed the limit in the Act, please advise on what information you are able to supply within the cost parameters.

We would be grateful if you could confirm that you have received this request.

Yours sincerely