

Meeting **REGIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date **TUESDAY 22 JUNE 2010 - 2.00 P.M.**

Report of **CHIEF EXECUTIVE DERBYSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

Subject **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS (FOI)**

Purpose of Report

1. To update Standards Committee Members on the Freedom of Information (FOI) request process used by the Derbyshire Police Authority and the numbers of requests received in the year 2009/10.

Commentary

2. Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Authority must always be in writing and are usually received by email. They can come from anywhere in the world and can be from an individual or an organisation.

3. The Freedom of Information 2000 gives any individual or organisation the right to information held by the Police Authority as a public body. They have the right to be told whether the information is held by the Authority and also the right to receive the information (with a few exceptions). Any disclosure is made into the public domain and not just the applicant - it releases the information to the world.

4. The minority of FOI's received are requesting information that the Police Authority hold, many requests are for operational information that is held by the Derbyshire Constabulary and so a process is in place for requests to be transferred. The Constabulary have a Freedom of Information team who respond on behalf of the force and subject to agreement from the requester, an FOI will be forwarded on for the team's attention.

5. From the date of receipt of an FOI request, a public body has 20 working days to respond in writing.

6. Between 1st April 2009 and the present, there were 33 FOI requests received by the Police Authority. Of these, 23 were transferred to the Constabulary as they were operational requests, 1 was not police related and 9 were responded to by the Police Authority (a summary is attached at **Annex A**).

Recommendation

7. The regional Standards Committee meeting note the FOI process and recent activity.

Implications

Financial considerations: There may be future implications for opportunity costs of the authority officer, if the number of requests specific to the Authority, continue to increase. Legal Considerations There are legal considerations arising from this report relating to the level of understanding within the Authority of Freedom of Information Act legislation. The Authority's

lead officer will be attending FOI training in July 2010. Equality & Diversity Considerations: Additional equality and diversity training may be required and this will be monitored in co-ordination with members. Risk Considerations: There are no direct risk considerations arising from this report. Health & Safety Considerations: 11. There are no direct health and safety considerations arising from this report. Human Rights Considerations: There are no direct human rights considerations arising from this report.

Background Papers

None

Officers to Contact

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