

Pre-Fracking / Fracking

The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner has produced the below Publications Strategy in anticipation of a significant number of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The strategy aims to provide a transparent approach to FOI detailing what exists and what can and cannot be released. Producing such a strategy will assist the PCC, his office and the public in ensuring timely and transparent responses to all requests.

The FOI publication strategy will enable the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, when appropriate, to use the powers within FOI legislation found at section 22. Section 22 exempts information from disclosure which is intended for future publication.

The key to it is that the decision to publish has been made prior to any request for the information being received.

The identified benefits of engaging this exemption are that dealing with requests for certain data whilst any policing operations are ongoing can be complex and resource intensive. Also, random piecemeal disclosures may in fact damage the investigation process and affect the strategic aims of the operation. This can manifest itself in many different ways but can include disclosures which enable offenders to evade the process and the raising of unfounded concerns by victims, witnesses etc. There will also be an appetite from the media to gain exclusive knowledge and data, via FOI, which enables them to undermine the media strategy and even potentially disrupt the operation.

Category	Types of Information	Publication Strategy
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press/media releases 	<p>.</p> <p>Such communications will be released on an ongoing basis – standard media strategies and considerations apply</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other outside agencies • Internal Communications 	<p>Information will not be released during the planning stages or while operations and investigations/proceedings are ongoing, whether they be criminal / IOPC or Internal.</p>
Strategy and Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication/Media Strategies • Operational strategies 	<p>When operations and investigations are fully complete, consideration will be given to releasing information listed subject to any relevant exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.</p>
Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Group Minutes 	
Finance	<p>COSTINGS including but not limited to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total of the additional cost to SYP i.e. not included in standard time • Any travelling/accommodation costs • Budget and overspend/under spend 	<p>The PCC recognises the understandable public interest as regards how much in terms of police resources, and by extension, public funds, will be expended in the police’s response to the policing of protests in relation to pre-fracking or fracking in South Yorkshire.</p> <p>Many actual costs will not be known until some time after protests cease and accounting has been completed.</p>

Category	Types of Information	Publication Strategy
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and position within the organisation that worked on policing protests in relation to pre-fracking / fracking 	Again, this figure cannot be provided until protests cease and accounting has been completed.
Outcome/Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public facing SIO Debrief Report 	Matters relevant to specific policing issues and sensitive strategic matters will not appear within any publicly circulated review document until all operations and investigations are fully complete.
Professional Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal data relating to an individual • Number of complaints • How many, if any are meet the criteria under the Police Reform Act 2002 and if so provide the outcomes. 	<p>The PCC and SYP are committed to being open and accountable. Experience has shown that PCCs and forces are likely to receive complaints during such operations and investigations.</p> <p>The information is intended for future publication once any such claims have been investigated.</p>
Please note: When releasing any of the above information, FOI exemptions may apply.		