

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

COVID-19 PUBLICATION STRATEGY

The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) has produced this Covid-19 Publication Strategy (Strategy) in anticipation of a significant number of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. 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, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), the Assurance Panels, South Yorkshire's Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) and the public in ensuring timely and transparent responses to all requests

When appropriate to do so, this Strategy will enable the OPCC and VRU to use the powers within FOI legislation found at section 22. Section 22 exempts information from disclosure which is intended for future publication.

The identified benefits of engaging this exemption are that:

1. dealing with requests for certain data, whilst our response to the Covid-19 outbreak is ongoing, will be complex and resource intensive
2. random piecemeal disclosures may in fact damage the strategic aims of our response.

This can manifest itself in many different ways, but could include disclosures which may raise unfounded concerns by victims, witnesses and the public at large as well as compromising the ability of the police to co-ordinate their response and make effective use of their powers and the ability of criminal justice partners in bringing offenders to justice. There will also be an appetite from the media to gain exclusive knowledge and data, via FOI, which could enable them to undermine the media strategy and even potentially disrupt our response / business continuity plans.

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

Category	Types of Information	Publication Strategy
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press/media releases 	Such communications will be released on an ongoing basis – standard media strategies and considerations apply
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other outside agencies (including emails) • Internal Communications (including emails) 	Information will not be released: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where it may raise unfounded concerns by victims, witnesses and the general public • that relates to South Yorkshire Police’s response to the Covid-19 virus (Operation Artful – Mike)
Strategy and Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication/Media Strategies • Business Continuity Plans • Protocols between agencies 	Once the response to Covid -19 is concluded and normal business returns consideration will be given to releasing information listed subject to any relevant exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC Decisions • Senior Leadership Team emails / notes / actions • Minutes / notes of PCC / SYP /VRU strategy meetings • Policing plans • Business Continuity Plans 	
Finance	COSTINGS including but not limited to;	The PCC recognises the understandable public interest as regards how much in terms of police resources, and by extension, public funds, will be expended whilst responding the Covid-19 virus.

Category	Types of Information	Publication Strategy
	<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>Many actual costs will not be known until sometime after the PCC, OPCC, VRU and the Force's Operation ceases and accounting has been completed.</p> <p>Please note a figure for 'standard time' worked by all Officers/Staff engaged on Operation Artful-Mike, will not be held by the Force / OPCC / VRU and to produce this would be excessive and impracticable.</p>
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and position within the organisations that worked on the response to Covid-19 • Number of staff within organisations who have been required to self-isolate as a result of exposure, infection or caring responsibilities as such 	<p>Again, this figure cannot be provided until the PCC, OPCC, VRU and Operation Artful-Mike ceases and accounting has been completed.</p>
Outcome/Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public facing Debrief Report 	<p>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.</p>
<p>Please note: When releasing any of the above information, FOI exemptions may apply.</p>		