

14th June 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20180873

REQUEST

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about any contracts with automated facial recognition manufacturers.

Specifically, I am asking the following:

1. *Does your police force hold any current contracts with Viseum, Anyvision, Digital Barriers, Facewatch, or Verint or has it previously ever purchased any of their products?*

If yes, please provide details of:

- a) *How much money your force has spent on these contracts and/or products*
- b) *What products or services were sought in those contracts or purchases*
- c) *The contract lengths*
- d) *When your force purchased the company's technologies or services*
- e) *The purpose your force purchased the company's technologies or services for*

2. *Does your force hold contracts with any other automated facial recognition manufacturers or has it purchased automated facial recognition technology?*

If yes, please provide details of:

- a) *How much money your force has spent on these contracts and/or products*
- b) *What products or services were sought in those contracts or purchases*
- c) *The contract lengths*
- d) *When your force purchased the company's technologies or services*
- e) *The purpose your force purchased the company's technologies or services for*

3. *Please provide details of any correspondence or meetings your force has had with Viseum, Anyvision, Digital Barriers, Facewatch, Verint or any other automated facial recognition vendor.*

4. *Has your force trialled any products from Viseum, Anyvision, Digital Barriers, Facewatch, Verint or any other automated facial recognition vendors? If so, please provide detail.*

RESPONSE

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a. states that fact,
- b. specifies the exemption in question and
- c. states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

Section 12(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

I contacted our Information Technology Department to assist with your request. They explained due to no stipulated timescale and the correspondence being to not only the named companies but other potential vendors:

We do not maintain records of meetings / correspondence of meetings as per Q3. I'm checking on the effort involved in scanning email/outlook for the keywords in Q3, but because the question is not time bound and has a number of variables ... that it will exceed the 18 hour threshold

As such, this request would require a manual trawl through all accounts held by South Yorkshire Police to locate, retrieve and extract the pertinent information in relation to your request for telephone calls information and spend by departments specifically relating to 118118 and 118500 numbers. This would significantly exceed the appropriate limit.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf