

Mr xxxxx

Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police

Telephone:- 0115 9672507

Facsimile:- 0115 9672896

E-mail: freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

xxxx@xxx

12th March 2008

Dear Mr xxxxx

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

Reference No: FOI08-1340

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th February 2008, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 14th February 2008 and acknowledged by e-mail on 14th February 2008. I note you seek access to the following information:-

I would like to make an enquiry regarding the policing of the "Voice of Change" conference held at Brinsley Parish Hall on Sunday, January 27 of this year. As you may be aware this was an event bringing together those on one side of an ongoing split within the British National Party.

According to reports from people living in the village the policing at this event was overwhelming with large numbers of officers, vans, horses and even a helicopter. This seems an awfully large police response for what, by all accounts, was a relatively modest event.

My query is two-fold. While I acknowledge that some of this information may be sensitive I would like to know: (1) on what basis it was decided that such a large

police presence was necessary; and (2) what the approximate cost of policing this event was.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Decision

Please see enclosed response

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115 9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer

Enc

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

I would like to make an enquiry regarding the policing of the "Voice of Change" conference held at Brinsley Parish Hall on Sunday, January 27 of this year. As you may be aware this was an event bringing together those on one side of an ongoing split within the British National Party.

According to reports from people living in the village the policing at this event was overwhelming with large numbers of officers, vans, horses and even a helicopter. This seems an awfully large police response for what, by all accounts, was a relatively modest event.

My query is two-fold. While I acknowledge that some of this information may be sensitive I would like to know: (1) on what basis it was decided that such a large police presence was necessary; and (2) what the approximate cost of policing this event was.

1. This policing operation was required to ensure that a private meeting of persons with previous links to the British National Party occurred with minimal risk to the public, those attending the meeting, officers and potential protestors. A previous event organised at Kimberley by the same person, Cllr Graham, involved public disorder, a risk of harm to the public. Despite the presence of over 20 police officers the police were unable to prevent disruption to the meeting and were unable to take effective action against disorderly protestors without increasing the risk of harm to all involved. In the weeks leading up to the Brinsley meeting further incidents of tension between far left and far right activists occurred in Brinsley. The possibility of protest and disorder was real and a threat and risk assessment of the event took place. This informed our operational plans and tactics to ensure that the safety of all concerned was maximised and that there were sufficient officers to prevent disorder. I can also state that persons connected with far left protest groups were seen to attend the Brinsley area at the time of the meeting. It may be that further activists would have attended had these people not witnessed the level of police activity.
2. I am unable to provide accurate costs at this time but will provide an indication of staff used and estimated costs. I believe that it is appropriate to state that following the disorder at Kimberley Nottinghamshire Police informed organisers of the event that there had been insufficient notice of the meeting to allow for

appropriate policing plans without significant disruption to the normal services provided to the public, and that in future we would expect at least 4 weeks notice to minimise cost and disruption.

Nottinghamshire Police were not given such notice by those organising the Brinsley meeting. As a result Nottinghamshire Police approached the organisers and members of Brinkley Parish council and asked that the meeting be rearranged so as to allow for appropriate planning and a reduction on the impact on policing across Nottinghamshire. Cllr Graham and members of the council made a decision not to cancel or rearrange the meeting.

OT indicates staff on overtime or cancelled rest days

Police involved in planning approx.

Rank/Role	Number	Total hours
Superintendent	1	6
Chief inspector	1	16
Inspector	2	32
Sergeants	2	30
Constables	6	30
Total	12	114

Police deployed on 27th Jan 08

Superintendent	1	8
Inspectors	2	16
Neighbourhood Sgt	1	8 OT
Neighbourhood Constables	6	48
PCSOs	4	32
Sergeant public order	3	24
Constables public order	21	168
Mounted officers	2	16
Dog handlers	2	16
Evidence gatherers constables	6	48 OT
Prison van drivers	2	16
Tactical advisers	2	16 OT
Roads Policing	4	32
Control room operator	2	16
Total	57	464

Police in reserve on 27th Jan 08 (cannot be available for normal duties)

Inspector	1	8
Sergeants	3	24
Constables	21	168
total	25	200

Total time 778 hours equivalent to 97.25 police days at 8 hour days.

Cost at average rate for Police constable £12,000.00

The above information is a conservative estimate of costs. This does not include the time or cost for erection of fencing for the venue or work undertaken by the highways department to consider potential diversions should road closures be required etc.

It can be seen that whilst there is need to hold public meetings and to ensure they take place safely the policing of such events has an impact upon day-to-day policing. Our experience is that we are able to minimise the impact if we receive sufficient planning time and are supported by organisers who recognise the impact of their decisions.