



Metropolitan Police Authority

**10 Dean Farrar Street
LONDON
SW1H 0NY**

**Telephone: 020 7202 0185
Fax: 020 7202 0246**

**Email: yvonne.peart@mpa.gov.uk
Ref:**

27 February 2007

Dear

I refer to your request of 29 January 2007 and your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You asked for:

1. A copy of an exempt report presented to the MPA (Co-ordination and Policing Committee) on Thursday 7th December 2007.
2. Details of the committee's observations and recommendations concerning the report.

I am able to respond as follows:

I can confirm that we do hold the exempt report on the MPS use of Forensic Science. We do not hold documentary evidence of Members' observations concerning the report. The first recommendation of this report has been disclosed. We consider that the second recommendation is exempt information. Our decision regarding the report and the second recommendation is given below.

DECISION

Please find the attached redacted report.

We consider that the full disclosure of the above information would not be in the public interest. We believe that the disclosure of this information could compromise the ability to prevent and detect crime. We consider that partial disclosure of this report would provide an overview of the use of forensic science for the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). The disclosed information sets out the impact for the MPS in tackling criminality against the background of the commercial development of forensic science provision. We consider that exemptions apply to the redacted information in the report.

REASON FOR DECISION

We believe that the following exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 apply:

Section 43 Commercial interests

Section 43

We believe that full disclosure of the exempt report would undermine the ability of the MPA to manage the commercial relationships. The release of the document without redactions would or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the MPS.

This is subject to the public interest test as follows:

Considerations in favour of disclosure

- The report provides an overview of the use of forensic science setting out its impact in tackling criminality in the MPS against the background of the commercial development of Forensic science provision.
- The release of the requested information would assist in the public understanding of commercial issues that are relevant to the contracts entered into with forensic science providers, ensuring informed public debate.

Considerations in favour of non-disclosure

- It is in the public interest for the MPS to prevent and detect crime and disclosure of details and principles from the report could impinge upon the MPS ability to fulfill its core forensic functions.
- Fully disclosing this report would undermine the ability of the MPS to manage the commercial relationships and could be the subject of breach of contract / litigation by the forensic science providers.

We are therefore not in a position to respond fully to your information request.

A report on 'the use of DNA in tackling crime and promoting equality' was presented to the MPA Equal Opportunity and Diversity Board on 16 November 2006; I have enclosed the report with this response as it may be of interest to you.

I hope that this response answers your questions.

If you are unhappy with the decision regarding your request for information you should write to me at the above address. I will arrange for an officer who has not had any involvement with this request to review our decision. If you are still unhappy after that, a further request can be made to the Information Commissioner, who will decide whether the request was dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act. Further

information is available on the Information Commissioner's website:
www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Yvonne Peart
Information Officer