

I would like to submit a freedom of information request regarding the following;

1) Does West Midlands Police have a policy regarding private security firms deploying staff in a uniform that closely resembles that of police officers, if so is a policy publicly available, and if not is a policy being prepared, and if there are no plans for a policy why having no policy is appropriate.

West Midlands Police does not have a policy regarding private security firms deploying staff in a uniform that closely resembles that of police officers. However see answer to question 3.

2) Does West Midland Police have a policy regarding private security firms deploying staff equipped with handcuff restraints, and/or on the use of handcuff restraints on other members of the public, against their will, by private security personnel when attending a response situation, and if not is a policy being prepared, and if there are no plans for a policy why having no policy is appropriate.

West Midlands Police does not have a policy regarding private security firms deploying staff equipped with handcuff restraints, and/or on the use of handcuff restraints on other members of the public, against their will, by private security personnel when attending a response situation. However see answer to question 3.

3) What action would the executive officers of West Midlands Police recommend their officers take in the circumstances where a private security firm issued staff with uniform and personal protective equipment that was markedly similar to that of police officers, given this would pose a risk to vulnerable individuals requiring the help that could be obtained from an appropriately trained police officer rather than a security operative, and pose the risk of the uniform and equipment being used to impersonate a police officer for the purposes of crime.

The FOI Act applies to information that is already recorded and does apply to requests for comment on specific scenarios.

However, impersonating a police officer is an offence. The relevant legislation is provided below.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/16/section/90>

West Midlands Police's mission is to prevent crime, protect the public and help those in need. The expectation is therefore that officers would act appropriately, given the particular circumstances, to prevent crime and protect the public.