

S30(1)(a)

Factors favouring disclosure

The disclosure of information would provide an insight into the police service and enable the public to have better understanding of the effectiveness of the police. Disclosure of information could allow the public to make informed decisions about how the police investigate misconduct matters. Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justifying the use of public money.

Factors against disclosure

The disclosure of information in relation to specific misconduct matters would hinder the prevention or detection of crime. West Midlands Police would not wish to reveal details which could adversely affect the reputation of an individual e.g. whether they are involved in a police investigation this could undermine the law enforcement and investigative process. The details will form part of an investigation which may still be ongoing and could undermine the effectiveness of the investigations.

Balance Test

The effectiveness of investigations and the intelligence they provide is of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge details that would compromise ongoing investigations.

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by various individuals there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Identifying investigative information around misconduct matters would undermine any current investigations and any that may occur in the future. It is therefore vitally important that this information is not disclosed.