

Section 30(1)(a)(b)(c) Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Local Authorities**Section 40(2) Personal Information**

Section 40 is an absolute class-based exemption therefore there is no requirement to provide evidence of harm or consider the public interest test. To disclose the information would significantly increase the risk of individuals being identified which would breach principle 1 (lawfulness, fairness and transparency) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

Section 30 is a qualified class-based exemption and therefore engages the public interest test, below are my considerations.

Public interest test**Factors favouring disclosure**

Disclosure of the redacted information would make for a better-informed public and adhere to the basic principles of openness and transparency.

Factors against disclosure

In making this information public the investigation would be undermined and any potential future proceedings jeopardised. This would diminish public confidence in the way the force handles information and deter the public from reporting crimes to the Police.

The redacted information may also be used by those intent on committing criminal activities to evade West Midlands Police during their investigative processes. A disclosure would also diminish public confidence in the force and the way in which it handles information.

Balance test

West Midlands Police is tasked with the prevention and detection of crime, the investigations and proceedings are a key principle to this. Although disclosing the redacted information would make for a more informed public it would also undermine the forces ability to conduct these investigations effectively. Therefore, I believe balance lies in favour of non-disclosure at this time