



Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commission

Freedom of Information Act

Request Response

No. 003256/14

Question

I write to you in hope that you may be able to help me under the "Freedom of Information Act 2000"

Let me introduce myself. I am a resident of Hatton Avenue in Wellingborough. It has been brought to the attention of the local residents that a company call G4S are currently in the process of purchasing a house at 34 Hatton Ave, Wellingborough NN8 5AP with a planning application for change of use to a business run as a behavioural management centre for 10-17 years olds. G4S along with other businesses run Behavioural management centres across the UK for children with increased behavioural issue. The kids reasons for being in these centres are not openly advertised!

From their website <http://www.g4schildrenshomes.co.uk/our-homes/> the main centres of my interest are those in Northamptonshire Oxon and Bedfordshire

- 1) Abbey House, located in Abington, Northampton
- 2) Buckby House located in Long Buckby, Northamptonshire
- 3) Eversley House located in Kingsley, Northampton
- 4) Harpury House located in Bedford.
- 5) Salmons House located in Banbury Oxon
- 6) Hayway located in Rushden Northamptonshire

As local residents would like some of concerns and Questions answered. I recently requested information from our local PCSO and Sergeant Sharan Wildman. I asked at the time if there were increased crime statics for the area, increased stats for 101 or 999 calls and were the police consulted on such issues. However I was very politely told that there was no such information.

Under the Freedom of Information act 2000. We as residents would like to know what we are likely to expect from such a development being on our doorsteps. The best case studies for this would be such developments already in existence. (Please see above)

Our questions are:-

- 1) Are their statics for 101 or 999 calls relating to the above properties and surrounding areas.
- 2) Are their statics to show increased anti social behaviour in the area since these premises have been in existence. Which might go against the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2008
- 3) Are their statics to show increased parking violation and highway incidents relating to the above properties and surrounding areas.
- 4) Statics for increased crime, vandalism and noise pollution relating to the above properties and surrounding areas.
- 5) How well do the children integrate into the surrounding areas?
- 6) Have Northants Police been consulted about such developments.

I note in your mission statement you state-

"I'm here to change things - to bring down violent crime, to ensure that victims of crime are put first and to work at making our policing the brightest and the best."

However I have further questions, if this centre is to opened in the Hatton Aveune and is given the go a head by the town planners.

Can we rely on Northamptonshire police should we begin to have issues with drugs and anti-social behaviour (something that if you look at our statics we suffered in previous years) will Northamptonshire will be a secure and safe place. Northamptonshire police be more visible when we as residents need them?

Answer

I write in reply to your e-mail requesting information as reproduced below. I would add that we would only hold information relating to those addresses in Northamptonshire, not outside the County.

Also you ask for statistics relating to when the properties came into existence, you do not specify any dates. Also the term 'surrounding area' is not specified. You ask for detail of 101 and 999 calls that relate to those addresses and 'surrounding areas', this is very unspecific and would not be searchable with any meaningful criteria.

You may find the following link to the Home Office crime mapping website useful;

<http://www.police.uk/>

I do not think that I could provide the kind of information you require without a much detailed request containing very specific criteria, if it can be provided at all within the cost limits set by the Act.

Question

I would be interested in knowing about:

6 Kingsley Road
Northampton
NN2 &BL

245 Abington Ave
Northampton
NN3 2BU

Buckley House
Long Buckley

Answer

Northamptonshire Police can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of exception S40(5) – Personal Data. This is an Absolute Class Based Exemption. However, this should not be taken as conclusive evidence that the information you requested exists or does not exist.

By way of an explanation, even if you know such information exists, if I were to confirm that the police holds such personal information to you as the requestor under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would in effect, be releasing that information to the world as a whole and would be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

I can provide you with the following information which has been submitted to Wellingborough Council by our Prevention and Community Protection Department, and will appear on their planning application website in the near future;

“Northamptonshire Police have some concerns relating to the planning application in its present form:

Ø When reviewing police contact with other G4S children's homes within Northamptonshire a preliminary search of our records show that the Police have been called almost 200 times within the last year regarding issues relating to young persons in their care such as , missing persons and welfare. It is therefore likely that the introduction of another establishment will increase police resourcing to deal with similar issues and therefore have an impact on local policing.

Ø Police officers have spent at least 90 hours dealing with initial reports of absent/missing persons with the Northamptonshire G4S homes.

Ø Our records do show that there have been no calls from neighbours about the Northamptonshire G4S homes only incidents and crimes

from the homes themselves, which does indicate that there has been minimal impact on local residents.

Should the local authority be minded to grant permission for this proposal Northamptonshire Police will need a robust management plan from the applicant, setting out policies and procedures for minimising crime and disorder, dealing with disruptive children/young people within their care and the policy related to missing persons.

If you or the developer would like to discuss these points raised please do not hesitate to contact me”.