

9 March 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180319

REQUEST

On Friday 02 February 2018 The Star published the following article (Forensic work continues after tree felling workers claim they were poisoned by residents' tea), a South Yorkshire Police spokesperson offered a comment:

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/forensic-work-continues-after-tree-felling-workers-claim-they-were-poisoned-by-residents-tea-1-8997264>

4. Please provide a copy of the complete communications with The Star and South Yorkshire Police where a request was made for a response in the article above. This should include initial out reach by either party and final email on subject.

And on Thursday 25 January 2018 A South Yorkshire Police spokesperson offered comment in the following article Police investigating as workers fall ill after being given tea by resident while felling trees in Sheffield :

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/police-investigating-as-workers-fall-ill-after-being-given-tea-by-resident-while-felling-trees-in-sheffield-1-8980819>

5. Please provide a copy of the complete communications with The Star and South Yorkshire Police where a request was made for a response in the article above. This should include initial out reach by either party and final email on subject.

RESPONSE

I approached our Media Department for assistance with your request and a Media Officer has searched their systems in response. In accordance with 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I can advise you that South Yorkshire Police holds information in relation to your request and I am able to disclose this to you in full, subject to the below exemptions.

Section 40(2) Personal Information

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption. Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified.

FOI response:

The SYP media team was advised of the incident on 5 November 2017 via email. A holding statement was created when SYP's media team were contacted by a member of the media, (from a different publication) on 22 January 2018. The statement as copied below was sent to this publication.

South Yorkshire Police are investigating reports of three alleged assaults on three workers who were felling trees in Sheffield, this matter was reported during October 2017. Officers have carried out forensic tests and have spoken to a number of witnesses regarding this matter and enquiries are ongoing.

On 24 January 2018, a Star journalist contacted SYP's media team for the first time in relation to this incident. The same statement was sent to the Star.

Email attached shows statement sent to the Star on 24 January.

Solcara log shows the call made by the Star, to SYP's media team and the response provided.

Caller: [REDACTED] **Organisation:** The Star **Contact Details:**

Received: 02 February 2018 11:27 **Press Officer:** [REDACTED] **Deadline Date:** [REDACTED]

Logged by: [REDACTED] **Status:** Closed **Type:** REACTIVE

Call Subject: **Call District:**

Notes: Is there any update to the tea poisoning investigation? Have there been any arrests? Are the forensic tests still ongoing?

 [Response](#)  

Response by: [REDACTED] - 02 February 2018 11:28 (0 hours 1 mins)

Form of Response:

Cleared by:

Response text: Advised the update he received on Wednesday is the latest - no arrests, as far as we're aware the forensics are still ongoing - these can take some time

Caller: [REDACTED] **Organisation:** The Star **Contact Details:**

Received: 01 February 2018 15:36 **Press Officer:** [REDACTED] **Deadline Date:** [REDACTED]

Logged by: [REDACTED] **Status:** Closed **Type:** REACTIVE

Call Subject:

Call District:

Notes: We have heard there have been arrests in the tea-tampering case, as there has been evidence of poison in the tea.

 [Response](#)  

Response by: [REDACTED] - 01 February 2018 17:30 (1 hours 54 mins)

Form of Response:

Cleared by:

Response text: Hi [REDACTED] as advised earlier no arrests or charges.

Caller: [REDACTED]

Organisation: The Star **Contact Details:**

Received: 31 January 2018 15:28

Press Officer: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Deadline Date:

Logged by: [REDACTED]

Status: Closed

Type: REACTIVE

Call Subject:

Call District:

Notes: Do you have any update on the reported poisoning incident?

 [Response](#)  

Response by: [REDACTED] - 31 January 2018 15:29 (0 hours 1 mins)

Form of Response:

Cleared by:

Response text: If asked sent

South Yorkshire Police is investigating reports of three alleged assaults on three workers who were felling trees in Chatsworth Road in Sheffield. This matter was reported during October 2017. Officers have carried out forensic tests and have spoken to a number of witnesses regarding this matter and enquiries are ongoing.

Caller: [REDACTED] **Organisation:** The Star **Contact Details:**

Received: 24 January 2018 15:05 **Press Officer:** [REDACTED] **Deadline Date:**

Logged by: [REDACTED] **Status:** Closed **Type:** REACTIVE

Call Subject: **Call District:**

Notes: Do you have a line about alleged poisoning of Amey workers?

 [Response](#)  

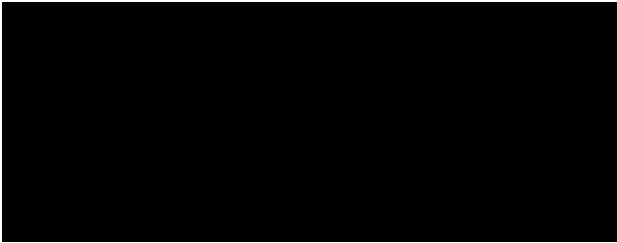
Response by: [REDACTED] - 24 January 2018 15:06 (0 hours 1 mins)

Form of Response:

Cleared by:

Response text: If asked lines sent through

South Yorkshire Police are investigating reports of three alleged assaults on three workers who were felling trees in Sheffield, this matter was reported during October 2017. Officers have carried out forensic tests and have spoken to a number of witnesses regarding this matter and enquiries are ongoing.



From: Media
Sent: 24 January 2018 15:08
To: [redacted]@jpress.[redacted]
Subject: lines

Hi [redacted]

Please see the lines below:

South Yorkshire Police are investigating reports of three alleged assaults on three workers who were felling trees in Sheffield, this matter was reported during October 2017. Officers have carried out forensic tests and have spoken to a number of witnesses regarding this matter and enquiries are ongoing

Thanks,



Regards,

SYP Media Team
Corporate Communications

South Yorkshire Police
Corporate Communications
Carbrook House
Carbrook Hall Road
S9 2DB

T: [redacted]

southyorks.police.uk



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