



# Freedom of Information Response

Request	Response	Additional Information
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>The Facebook correspondence refers to an item on the Merseyside Police website in respect of Police Community Support Officers and text in the section Eligibility Criteria.</p> <p><a href="https://www.merseyside.police.uk/police-forces/merseyside-police/areas/careers/join-us/police-community-support-officers/">https://www.merseyside.police.uk/police-forces/merseyside-police/areas/careers/join-us/police-community-support-officers/</a></p> <p><b>The applicant asks:</b></p> <p>What are unacceptable organisations?</p> <p>Surely the word unacceptable will have different views, from different people. Who decides what is an what is not?</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>The section referred to relates to the last part of the eligibility criteria in respect of tattoos, which states:</p> <p><b><i>Applicants should be aware that they should not have any tattoos that could cause offence. In summary tattoos are not acceptable if they:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>undermine the dignity of Merseyside Police</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>are on the hands, neck and face</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>could cause offence to members of the public or colleagues or are discriminatory in anyway, lewd, crude, violent in nature or show allegiance to any unacceptable organisations</i></b></li> </ul> <p>The above text is contained within the Force Policy on Dress and Appearance within section 2.17 and paragraphs 2.17.1 to 2.17.4, provided further explanation and also refer to external documents which set standards for the police service including police staff. Information from the external sites is not held by the Force for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000.</p> <p><a href="https://www.merseyside.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/merseyside/policies/dress-and-appearance-policy.pdf">https://www.merseyside.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/merseyside/policies/dress-and-appearance-policy.pdf</a></p> <p>The above policy is accessible by other means on the Force website and therefore the exemption provision in section 21, Freedom of Information Act, 2000, is engaged.</p> <p><a href="https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21">https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21</a></p> <p><u>Unacceptable will therefore be determined on a case-by-case basis of the particular body art and whether it indicates allegiance to an organisation which does not meet the standards set as acceptable in relation to policing in England &amp; Wales. The decision will be an objective one taken having considered the requirements of the Code of Ethic and the standards of professional behaviour applicable to policing.</u></p> <p>By virtue of section 16 – links to some of the external information is provided below.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>This application taken from Facebook.</p> <p>Whilst the request for information is valid, there are difficulties in providing FOI responses to Facebook, due to technical information which may be involved with the response. The applicant is therefore requested to provide an alternate address for communication. An e-mail address is helpful, but it may be a street address for a postal response.</p> <p>The obligation in section 1 Freedom of Information Act, 2000, is to state if information is held and if that is the case to have the information communicated, unless an exemption provision is engaged, as in this case, with section 21.</p> <p><a href="https://www.merseyside.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/publication-scheme/">https://www.merseyside.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/publication-scheme/</a></p> <p>The above link provides members of the public with guidance on making an on-line FOI application, in a format that permits a direct response to the applicant.</p>

## College of Policing – Code of Ethics

### Police Staff Council Joint Circular 54 - Standards of Professional Behaviour

## Response - FOIA Application - DJ 2021 – 0897 MERPOL (please quote in all correspondence)

Following receipt for your request for information, the application was processed as an application under the Freedom of Information Act, 2000, provisions. Searches were conducted within the Merseyside Police to locate information relevant to your request.

I have been authorised by the senior decision maker in this case, the PNC & Data Access Manager, to:

Disclose information related to your application subject to the engagement of the exemption provision in section 21, Freedom of Information Act, 2000. Your request for information, in relation to the exempt information, has been considered and Merseyside Police is not obliged to supply the information that you have requested.

Section 17, Freedom of Information Act, 2000, requires Merseyside Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) States that fact,
- (b) Specifies the exemption(s) in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

In respect of the requests, where appropriate, under the duty in section 16 of the Act, the duty to be helpful, I have provided information, shown as additional information or in the response section which I believe will be of assistance to you.

## Making a complaint or an appeal

### Making a complaint or appeal about your Freedom of Information response

We accept that sometimes you may not agree with the decision we've made about your Freedom of Information request. If this is the case, there is an internal complaints procedure that you should follow.

You should make your complaint in writing to:

Merseyside Police  
Force Information Assurance Manager  
Police Headquarters (CSD)  
PO Box 59  
LIVERPOOL  
L69 1JD

It should detail:

- What the original request was
- The individual reference number (at top of the response table)
- The nature of the complaint
- Why you feel you should have received more information

It is acceptable to use e-mail to the following address: [foi@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:foi@merseyside.police.uk)

A complaint sent and received as above, will be fully investigated and will be dealt with by a staff member who was not involved in the original decision. We will write to you to advise the outcome of your complaint.

If you are dissatisfied with the results of your complaint you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's website - <http://www.ico.gov.uk>

The Office of the Information Commissioner  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
WILMSLOW  
SK9 5AF