



Altogether Better Policing

Information Rights and Disclosure  
Business Improvement Department  
Police Headquarters  
Aykley Heads  
Durham  
County Durham  
DH1 5TT

Web Site: [www.durham.police.uk](http://www.durham.police.uk)

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## Request to Durham Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act

Received on 08/07/2022 Our Ref: DC/FOI/666/22

**Date: 15/09/2022**

Your request:

I am writing to make a request for data under the Freedom of Information Act, concerning the resources used by Durham Police in investigating potential breaches of coronavirus regulations by Sir Keir Starmer and Dominic Cummings.

By the former, I refer to the investigation into whether Mr Starmer (alongside others who were present at the event in question) broke lockdown regulations at a Labour Party gathering on April 30 2021. By the latter, I refer to the investigation into whether the former Downing Street aide Dominic Cummings broke lockdown regulations by driving from London to Durham between 27 March 2020 and 13 April 2020.

Please tell me:

- 1) the cost of investigating both potential breaches of the regulations, including staffing costs
- 2) the number of officers who were at any time assigned to work on the investigation, broken down by rank
- 3) the number of officers who were at any time assigned to work on the investigation, broken down by the officers' usual function eg 'major investigations unit', 'specialist investigation units'
- 3) the time spent (whether in man hours or working days, or by whichever other way Durham Constabulary measures time resources) on the investigations

After careful consideration and performing a public interest test, I have deemed that the public interest lies in the disclosure of this information, as it relates to the spending of public money, and also the resources Durham Constabulary had to utilise to conduct this investigation.

I can confirm that the information that you seek is held by Durham Constabulary.

With regards to the event in April 2021.

1. The estimated operational cost to Durham Constabulary was approximately £101,000

2 and 3 - 9 Officers performed the investigation into this matter (1 Detective



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Superintendent, 1 Detective Inspector, 1 Detective Sergeant, 6 Detective Constables and in addition 2 members of Police Staff).

These officers and members of staff were from our Major Crime Team.

4. Approximately 3,203 Hours.

#### **With regards to the event in 2020**

The information requested is not held regarding cost and hours, however that event was investigated by 1 Detective Chief Superintendent who was assisted by 4 further detectives (who assisted the Senior Investigating Officer whilst performing other detective duties), also a member of police staff assisted.

The difference in the staffing levels was due to this event having 1 “suspect” whereas the 2021 event had multiple “suspects”.

Please note that Durham Constabulary’s response to your request is unique and should not be used as a comparison with any other Force response you receive.

#### **COMPLAINT RIGHTS**

Your attention is drawn to the below link to our website, which details your right to complain:

[Freedom of Information Requests \(contensis.com\)](http://www.durham.police.uk/contensis.com)

If you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact me on the above telephone number.

I hope this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Decision Maker 43720  
Information Rights and Disclosure Unit