

## Request 10716 - Councillor interviews under caution

Dear South Cambridgeshire District Council,

How many members of the council have the police interviewed under caution this year for offences under the Localism Act 2011?

For the avoidance of doubt, this request was submitted by email on 15 March 2022 and is reproduced on WhatDoTheyKnow in the public interest.

### Response

Thank you for your request for information above, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

On review of your request, we find that any such information if held, will be exempt under s31(1)(g) – the exercise by any public authority of its functions for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2). S31 is a qualified exemption which means a public interest test is required to see whether it would be reasonable to disclose any such information, if held, into the wider public domain.

Whilst it is in the public interest to provide transparency in how public services function and work, it would not be in the public interest to disclose material, if held, that may prejudice formal investigations. There is a strong public interest in maintaining the exemption and providing for full and fair investigation if required, to be undertaken, and allowing such investigations reach their conclusion without interference or risk of prejudice. In addition, as you appear to be asking about police activity, which is not within the duties of the Council, you may wish to approach Cambridgeshire Constabulary, details of which can be found on the [Cambridgeshire Constabulary website](#).

We find that maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure of any such material if held, and decline to respond further. Where exemption s31 is considered to be engaged there is no duty to confirm or deny the existence of any such material.

We appreciate you may be disappointed in this response, however, we hope our explanation above is useful to you.

We aim to provide a high quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us.