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Prejudice Test

Freedom of Information

Section 43(2)

Harm

Release via the Freedom of Information Act is deemed release into the public domain. Therefore, releasing this information into the public domain would be likely to notify members of the public how Sporting Khalsa intend to carry out their project proposals. This may influence other organisations to apply for the Helping Communities Funds with the same ideas, therefore having a detrimental effect on Sporting Khalsa's organisation. Disclosure of this information has the potential to prejudice Sporting Khalsa's commercial interests.

Factors that favour Disclosure

Disclosing information on Sporting Khalsa's proposed project might provide support and advice to other organisations who are hoping to have a successful application for the Helping Communities Fund. In turn, this might have a positive impact on the community, and its members, by providing a service that people may benefit from. It is clear that there is a public interest in supporting the community and benefiting from the funding provided by the Helping Communities Fund.

Factors against Disclosure

Information that falls within the scope of your request, and from Sporting Khalsa's application specifically, may lead yourself, or others, to take inspiration from their work. This may have a detrimental effect to their organisation, should the public's interest be drawn to another service other than their own. This may also affect their funding, if they are not able to carry out the work that they initially advertised. The commercial sensitivities included within the redactions have been applied under S43 because of the detrimental effect that releasing the information could have on trade secrets, and the prejudice that may be held as a result of disclosure.

Balancing Test

The issues of transparency and awareness are noted. However, on the balance it is considered that the public interest in disclosing this information is outweighed by the potential harm that release would have on the owner of this information.

Disclosing information in this case would place into the public domain information that would allow other organisations to take inspiration from the work of Sporting Khalsa, and benefit from it themselves.

Having considered the arguments for and against, I therefore consider that this prejudice test favours maintaining some level of confidence surrounding the work of Sporting Khalsa in respect to the Helping Communities Fund. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will not disclose information that could prejudice the current or future commercial interests of an organisation.