



BERMUDA POLICE SERVICE

P.O. BOX HM 530
HAMILTON HM CX
BERMUDA
TEL: (441)-295-0011
EXT: 1763
EMAIL: pati@bps.bm

Samantha Strangeways
2 Par-La-Ville Road
Hamilton
HM08

Dear Ms. Strangeways,

Further to your application in accordance with the Public Access to Information Act, in which you asked for;

- a) Records showing how and where the decision was taken on December 2nd 2016, to deploy a police support unit to the grounds of the session house – and by whom it was taken.
- b) The operational order, its accompanying signature and accompanying police plan.
- c) Any correspondence between the BPS and any individual outside the BPS regarding the decision to deploy the PSU, prior to the decision being enacted.
- d) Any correspondence dated 2nd December 2016 between the BPS and the house speaker.
- e) Please provide BPS policy – pepper spray use.
- f) Any records showing the number of alleged assaults at the protest.

In relation to questions ‘a’ and ‘b’, I can confirm that the Bermuda Police Service holds records relating to your request. The Operation Order entitled ‘Public Protest House of Assembly’ is enclosed. In relation to question ‘a’, you will note the references to the Public Support Unit therein.

You will note that there have been redactions made to the copy provided to you in accordance with Section 18 (1) of the Public Access to Information Act. The ‘Op Order’ is therefore not a complete copy of the original. The PATI act allows for certain exemptions to be applied to records held by a public authority. In this instance, there are portions of the ‘Op Order’ which would likely *‘disclose methods or procedures for preventing, detecting, investigating, or dealing with matters arising out of breaches or evasions of the law, the disclosure of which would prejudice, or could reasonably be expected to prejudice, the effectiveness of those methods or procedures’*.

Those portions of the policy have therefore been redacted from the record in accordance with section 34 (1) (e) of the act.

There are also portions of the order which if released would likely *‘endanger the physical or mental health or the safety of an individual’* and those portions have therefore been redacted in accordance with section 22 (1) of the act.

OUR MISSION: Making Bermuda Safer

In relation to questions 'c' and 'd', the BPS holds no records relating to the request.

In relation to question 'e', as you are aware this record was provided to you recently in a separate PATI request.

In relation to question 'f', the BPS does hold records in relation to this. Rather than supply the numerous records, many of which would be subject to exemption, I have answered your question below;

Assaults reported on members of the public - 26

Assaults reported on police – 14

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within six weeks of the date of receipt of this response and should be addressed to the Commissioner of Police.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Valerie T. Scott Building
60 Reid Street
Hamilton, HM12
Bermuda

441-294-9181 | www.ico.bm | <https://www.facebook.com/icobermuda>

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David Geraghty

David Geraghty
Information Officer
Public Access to Information