Devon and Cornwall Constabulary has been ordered by the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) to reveal whether there are teaching staff from Torbay who have been investigated for sex offences.

The public authority initially refused to confirm or deny whether the information existed citing the exemptions in sections 30 (‘investigations and proceedings conducted by public authorities’), 38 (‘health and safety’), and 40 (‘personal information’) of the Freedom of Information Act.

The ICO found that section 36 was engaged because the Chief Constable gave an opinion on the citing of this exemption, and that this opinion was both reasonably arrived at and reasonable in substance. However, on applying the public interest test, the Assistant Commissioner at the ICO, Ann Jones, decided that there was very considerable public interest in full disclosure of information relating to the deaths at Deepcut.

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