



**Date:** 1 May 2020  
**Our Reference:** FOIA-2020-043, FOIA-2020-047  
**Your Reference:** N/A

## **RE: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“FOIA 2000”)**

### **Our Decision**

I am writing regarding your emails dated 12 April 2020 and 24 April 2020 in which you sought information regarding coercion and control. Our response to your freedom of information requests are detailed below.

### **Decision**

When a request for information is made under FOIA 2000, a public authority has a general duty under section 1(1) of the Act to inform an applicant whether the requested information is held. There is then a general obligation to communicate that information to the applicant. If a public authority decides that the information should not be disclosed because an exemption applies, it must, under section 17(1) cite the appropriate section or exemption of the Act and provide an explanation for relying upon it.

In line with section 1(1) of FOIA 2000, we can confirm that we do hold information relevant to your requests. Please see below for responses to your questions.

### **FOIA-2020-043**

- 1. It is made clear that the list of examples of coercive and controlling behaviours in the Statutory Guidance for Coercion and Control, December 2015 ‘is not exhaustive’ (‘Types of behaviour’, Section 12, Page 4).**
  - (a) How do the College of Policing interpret this, and in a context of emotional/psychological abuse?**

Information relating to your request can be found in the Authorised Professional Practice on Domestic Abuse, which outlines coercive or controlling behaviour. Relevant information can be accessed at the following links:

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/domestic-abuse/context/#coercive-and-controlling-behaviour>

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/domestic-abuse/investigative-development/#checklist-spotlight-on-controlling-or-coercive-behaviour>

**(b) What training do safeguarding police officers receive specifically relating to coercion and control? Is a lesson brief available to be viewed by the public?**

The College of Policing training for coercive and controlling behaviour is available in three formats and is aligned to the above guidance. These formats are as follows:

- Coercive control the video – a short briefing relating to the legislation and impact of coercive or controlling behaviour on victims;
- a 3 hour classroom based training package covering the law, the behaviours ,evidence gathering and support for victims;
- DA Matters behaviour change programme, which is a one day package for first responders and champions.

We do not have a lesson brief available to be viewed by the public.

**2. In the 2015 Statutory Guidance relating to coercion and control there is reference to ‘humiliating’ and ‘degrading’ behaviour as well as ‘emotional’ and ‘psychological’ abuse; in the context of coercion and control. However, there is no definition of what behaviours might be considered to be humiliating, degrading, emotionally or psychologically abuse.**

**What behaviours do the College of Policing consider to be humiliating, degrading, emotionally and psychologically abuse?**

Information relating to your request can be found in the Authorised Professional Practice on Domestic Abuse, which outlines coercive or controlling behaviour and can be accessed here:

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/domestic-abuse/context/#coercive-and-controlling-behaviour>

**3. How do the College of Policing define CPS guidelines relating to a 'primary' victim in a context of domestic abuse inc' coercion and control?**

Identification of primary perpetrators is generic to all domestic abuse and advice is available here; <https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/domestic-abuse/first-response/#determining-the-primary-perpetrator-and-dealing-with-counter-allegations>

**4. Is the training in this area provided in house or is an external agency brought in / commissioned. If external which agency provides the training?**

All three of the above courses are available under licence to Home Office forces for local delivery. We have engaged licenced providers to deliver DA Matters to the first 75% of frontline responders and champions in force.

**FOIA-2020-047**

**1. Do the College use the 'Coercive Control Learning Tool' developed in collaboration between the N8 Research Partnership and Universities, and if so could I request a copy or sent a link so that I can access it.**

The College does not currently use the Coercive Control Learning Tool.

**2. Also, linked to question 4, if an external agency what form does the training/consultation take and specifically are there any 'men's' organisations involved e.g. Mankind (or other?)**

In relation to DA Matters we have three licenced providers, Safelives, Women's Aids and Welsh Women's Aid.

Your rights are provided at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

**Sarah Lawrence | Legal Advisor**

**Information Management and Legal Team**

**College of Policing**

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Website: [www.college.police.uk](http://www.college.police.uk)

**Your right of review**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you have a right to request an internal review if you are dissatisfied with our handling of your request. Review requests should be made in writing (by email or post) within **40 working days** from the date of our original response. We will aim to respond to your review request within **20 working days**.

**The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)**

If, after lodging a review request you are still dissatisfied, you may raise the matter with the ICO. For further information you can visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>. Alternatively you can contact them by phone or write to them at the following address:

**Information Commissioner's Office**

**Wycliffe House**

**Water Lane**

**Wilmslow**

**Cheshire**

**SK9 5AF**

**Phone: +44 (0)1625 545 700**