College of Policing

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Date: 15/05/2020

Our Reference: FOIA-2020-045

RE: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) request dated **17/04/2020**, in which you requested:

"What measures have been adopted by the police in England and Wales have been implemented in 2018 and 2019 that aim to enhance communication with victims of the categories listed below, to empower them or to encourage and facilitate their reporting to the Police (This includes measures adopted in cooperation with civil society actors representing the group in question as well as measures at the internal police level e.g. contact officers, tools enabling online reporting, specific training raising the awareness of the police of the situation of a specific category of victims etc.)?

- Women as victims of gender-based violence
- Children
- Persons with disabilities
- Victims of hate crime
- Victims of terrorism
- Victims of any other category not listed above"

Decision

When a request for information is made under the 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.

We can confirm the College holds **no recorded information** within the scope of your request. We have provided a contextual explanation below, which we hope will be of use to you, but it must be noted that not all of the sources below were adopted in 2018 or 2019.

The College of Policing produces the National Police Curriculum (NPC), which sets out the learning outcomes which should be met through training. Generally forces deliver their own training programmes or outsource their development and provision to a local provider. These can vary in length and profile albeit they will adhere to the national learning outcomes published by the College. The College has no authority to mandate following the NPC nor how the training is delivered. Forces devise training according to the availability of resource and in response to local need.

In addition the College publishes supporting materials to assist police learning and development, as well as setting the standards of professional practice to be adhered to by officers and staff. These standards are supported through a range of products such as training courses, trainer guides, continuing professional development support, assessment strategies, eLearning programmes, briefings, guidance, codes of practice and Authorised Professional Practice, etc.

Authorised Professional Practice (APP)

Title   Investigations APP

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/investigations/victims-and-witnesses/

Description

The Investigations APP provides guidance on the key roles and principles of criminal investigation. This link takes you to the section explaining how officers will work with victims and signpost the various support they can obtain during the course of an investigation including; family liaison, child therapy, Victim Support, the Homicide Service and Sexual Assault Referral Centres and Race Equality Groups.

Title   Prosecution and Case Management APP

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/prosecution-and-case-management/victim-and-witness-care/

Description

Prosecution and case management APP provides an introduction to the way the police service works with partners in the criminal justice system (CJS). This link takes you to guidance on how to support victims throughout the Criminal justice system. It links to the Victims' Code and explains how to access special measures for vulnerable or intimidated victims. This APP also covers wider support available for victims from the other agencies.

Title   Child Abuse APP

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/child-abuse/

Description

The requirement for action in child abuse cases creates obligations at every stage of the police response. These obligations apply when taking reports of concern for children and throughout the process of investigation. They also include the multi-agency response for safeguarding, and in particular, under [section 11](#) of the Children Act 2004, a statutory obligation on the police service to safeguard children. A thorough investigation should be completed in all cases where concern for a child is reported.

Title   **Child Sexual Exploitation APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/child-sexual-exploitation/

Description

This guidance has been written following a series of high-profile cases (Operation Span, Operation Retriever and Operation Bullfinch) in 2012/13 which highlighted the need for a consistent approach to identifying risks and safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation. It is designed to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE) matters, increase reporting, disrupt offender activity and increase safeguarding measures to help protect children and young people from being sexually exploited.

Title   **Domestic Abuse APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/domestic-abuse/

Description

Domestic abuse APP has been developed through the consolidation and updating of pre-existing guidance and with the professional expertise of police and voluntary sector practitioners. The section on risk assessment and risk factors draws on findings from systematic reviews of research evidence. It specifically covers issues affecting different groups of victims and explains how a person's cultural background or immigration status may make them more vulnerable to domestic abuse whilst creating additional barriers to leaving an abusive partner. It also covers honour-based violence and abuse as a form of domestic abuse.

Title   **Female Genital Mutilation APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/female-genital-mutilation/

Description

This APP is designed to give guidance on dealing with the illegal practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) for officers and those they work with so that it can be more proactively prevented and prosecuted.

Title   **Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/forced-marriage-and-honour-based-violence/

Description

This section of the website provides links to places where information and advice about these subjects can be found.

Title   **Hate Crime APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/hate-crime/

Description

Hate Crime Operational Guidance covers some of the issues which may be raised when seeking engagement with hard to reach and hard to hear groups and communities. It outlines tactics, such as third party reporting etc.

Title   **Missing persons APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/missing-persons/

Description

The College of Policing is committed to helping police officers and staff in England and Wales take appropriate and proportionate action to deal with people who are reported missing. A missing person report should be recognised as an opportunity to identify and address risks. Police actions and resources should be directed in the most effective way that makes people safe and prevents crime. This means prioritising activity so that the most intensive work addresses the needs of those missing people who are assessed as being at the greatest risk.

The purpose of Missing persons APP is to ensure that cases of missing persons are investigated effectively, and are supported by appropriate management structures.

Title   **Modern Slavery APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/modern-slavery/

Description

This APP is based on the professional expertise of selected members of the police service, wider law enforcement organisations and voluntary sector practitioners. This APP covers key responsibilities, risk and identification, reporting and referral into the national referral mechanism, investigation, prevention and disruption as well as challenges, solutions and victim and witness care.

Title   **Rape and Sexual Offences APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/rape-and-sexual-offences/

Description

Rape and sexual offending are among the most serious and high-impact crimes against the person. Learning more about the impact of this abuse on victims and understanding how to take better account of the effects of trauma in our work builds trust and confidence and encourages victims to report.

To support officers and staff in responding effectively to reports, the College has developed specific advice aimed at various levels of response and investigation. This includes first responders, secondary investigators, supervisors and managers and leadership. Our aim is to help our colleagues deal effectively with victims of these terrible offences and fulfil their vital roles in the investigation process.

Title   **Stalking and harassment APP**

Link   https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/major-investigation-and-public-protection/stalking-or-harassment/

Description

Stalking or harassment cases are diverse, some can be complex to deal with. There is a need to develop a proportionate response. This advice seeks to support first responders to make effective, risk based decisions. It has been developed in consultation with specialist partners and police practitioners, is intended to help responders to investigate effectively, identify and understand risk and respond appropriately.

eLearning

These learning materials are hosted on our digital managed learning environment (MLE).
Please note MLE content is not available outside of the police community.

Vulnerability and Risk Programme

The Vulnerability and Risk Learning Programme was developed as part of the Police Transformation-funded Vulnerability Project. The Vulnerability and Risk Learning Programme sits within the National Policing Curriculum (NPC) and is included in initial learning programmes within the Policing Education Qualification Framework (PEQF).

The programme is comprised of a one-day vulnerability learning package, supported by a force self-assessment health check. The programme is intended to support the professional development of front line officers and staff in providing more consistent standards of service to the public in this area of policing. The programme aims to improve policing practice using 'professional curiosity' to look beyond the obvious in relation to vulnerability and risk, so as to provide a wider appreciation of vulnerability and its contributing factors. The supplementary aim is to promote a change of culture in forces towards vulnerability.

Amongst a number of other core elements, the programme consists of a set of nine case studies each providing the trainer with the background to the case study, the questions they should ask and the points that should be achieved from discussions and case study videos – which include footage of vulnerable victims / perpetrators talking about their experiences to support the case study sessions. The case studies include the following topics: modern slavery, domestic abuse and hate crime, child sexual exploitation, radicalisation and hate crime, and forced marriage.

Victims Code eLearning Package

Available for all officers and staff, covering all entitlements under the Code. The package involves footage of real victims of crime. Work is in train regarding the anticipated revisions as a result of the new Code.

E-learning on Rape

Both courses were updated last year:

Rape: The initial response

This course uses a fictional scenario to outline the procedure to be followed by the initial responder, from the time a rape is reported until the handover to a specialist officer. This includes assessing the victim's needs and caring for them, obtaining the initial account, identifying and protecting crime scenes and recovering and preserving early forensic evidence. The course recognises the importance of witness evidence and summarises the assistance available to initial responders and to victims.

Rape: Myth and reality

This course addresses rape and drug-assisted rape and identifies a range of situations in which rape can occur. It challenges popular myths and misconceptions about rape. It helps learners to recognise and challenge their own attitudes and behaviours in relation to rape in order to gain the trust of and assist victims to the maximum. The course also looks at the main reasons why the majority of rapes go unreported.

Specialist Sexual Assault Investigator Development Programme (SSAIDP)

This programme is primarily aimed at all staff responding to, investigating and supervising incidents of rape or sexual assaults on adults. It gives an overview of the legislation and help learners to develop the knowledge, skills and behaviours necessary to provide an appropriate response to situations involving rape or sexual assault on adults. The programme can also be made available to police staff engaged in this area of policing. This is an intensive, week long, classroom based course. Very large parts of the course are relevant to the super complaint, such as sections on:

- Rape victims – Vulnerability, behaviours and care
- Investigating rape – Identifying an effective first response
- Investigating rape – Forensic Considerations
- Investigative interviews – Victim and suspect
- Risk identification and risk management of sex offenders
- Course debrief and professional development
- Offences against adults at risk – Healthcare settings.

We recommend you contact the National Police Chiefs Council (NPPC), Home Office, Ministry of Justice (MOJ), or specific police forces, who may be better placed to provide you with recorded information held under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Your rights are provided at the bottom of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Kaufman | Legal Researcher
Legal Services
College of Policing
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Website: 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: 0303 123 1113