

Date: 17/06/2021

Our Reference: FOIA-2021-060

RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or 'FoIA 2000') request dated 26/05/2021:

“- What training is provided as part of the NPFTC ARV Profile as a minimum / Copy of the curriculum

- Are all ARV Officers Dynamic Search nationally?

- Are all ARV Officers trained in MOE ?

- Does this include Breaching Shotguns”

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.

It is important to note that a freedom of information request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed are considered suitable for open publication, that is, once access to information is granted to one person under the legislation, it is then considered public information and must be communicated to any individual should a request be received. In

light of this, our responses and disclosures are published on our external website at a later date. This should be borne in mind where a request is made for personal data of named individuals.

Decision

After conducting careful searches for any information relevant to your request I can confirm, under Section 1(1), that there is information held.

What training is provided as part of the NPFTC ARV Profile as a minimum / Copy of the curriculum

- Please find attached to the email disclosure document 1. Some information has been redacted from this document under Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement. Please see our reasoning for applying this exemption below.

Are all ARV Officers Dynamic Search nationally?

- No, not all ARV Officers are trained in Dynamic Search.

Are all ARV Officers trained in MOE ?

- Does this include Breaching Shotguns

- No, not all ARV Officers are trained in MOE. Whether MOE training includes breaching shotguns is withheld under Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement. Please see our reasoning for applying this exemption below.

I trust this letter answers your questions. Your rights are provided in **Appendix A**.

Yours sincerely,

Ellie Watson | Legal Advisor
Information Management and Legal Team
College of Policing

Email: FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.college.police.uk

Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement

Information may be exempt under section 31(1) if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice -

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The above exemption requires a consideration of the prejudice or harm that would, or would be likely, to result from disclosure. The public interest test must then be considered, which requires an analysis of the arguments on both sides as to whether the public interest in disclosure is outweighed by any harm that disclosure may cause.

The College accepts that releasing the training provided as part of the NPFTC ARV profile would be of interest to the general public. We agree that to disclose this information would allow the public to see the nature of the work we do and the way in which we have supported policing. It would also help provide reassurance to the public that the College is fully transparent about the information they hold.

However, we also recognise that the effective conduct of the police service depends on certain tactical information not being released into the public domain. Due to the tactically sensitive nature of some sections of curriculum we believe that release may pose a threat to the public or law enforcement. Disclosure could hinder the effective prevention and detection of crime as it has the potential to reveal specific tactics the police use. Disclosure of information that undermines the operational integrity of law enforcement capabilities is highly likely to have an adverse impact on public safety and a negative effect on law enforcement generally. This risk to public safety cannot be said to be in the public interest.

As stated above, the public interest test is a consideration of whether the public benefit of possession of the information outweighs the potential harm of releasing that information, but it is not merely an evaluation of what interests the public. On weighing up the competing interests, I consider that the public interest test favours withholding specific sections of the document. It is believed that disclosure of the relevant content would be likely to prejudice effective law enforcement. Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Consequently, for the reasons set out above, some content within the ARV curriculum has been redacted in line with Section 31(1) and the content of the MOE training withheld.

Appendix A

Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the College of Policing made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can request that the decision is reviewed internally.

Internal review requests should be made in writing, within **forty (40) working days** from the date of the refusal notice, and addressed to: FOI team, Central House, Beckwith Knowle, Otley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UF or email: FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

In all possible circumstances the College of Policing will aim to respond to your request for internal review within **20 working days**.

The Information Commissioner

If, after lodging an internal review request with the College of Policing you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/for-the-public/official-information/>.

Alternatively, write to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113

“Authorised firearms officer”

An AFO is a police officer who has been selected, trained, accredited and authorised by their chief officer to carry a firearm operationally. There is a range of specialist AFO roles for which AFOs receive additional and specific tactical training and accreditation.

An AFO must be confirmed in the rank of constable, or equivalent agency rank or grade, not being a student officer or special constable. (Given the unique nature of their primary protective security guarding role and their predominantly armed profile, the requirement relating to student officers does not apply to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and Ministry of Defence Police).

An AFO will be trained in at least one weapon system and tactics commensurate with their role, whether this is in force, or broader areas of operation.

AFO Role Profile

Training standards

NPFTC compliance in the following modules:

A1 Knowledge of Law, Procedure and Dealing with People

A1.1 Knowledge of law, procedure and dealing with people

A1.2 Deals with vulnerable persons

A2 Knowledge of Roles

A2.1 Knowledge of roles

A3 Post Deployment Considerations

A3.1 Post deployment considerations

A4 Issue, Carriage and Deployment with Firearms

A4.1 Issue, carriage and deployment

B1 Carries, Handles and Shoots a Police Firearm

B1.1 Firearms, ammunition and ballistic protection characteristics and capabilities

B1.2 Handles / shoots a police firearm

B1.3 Cleans police weapons

B1.4 Uses weapon retention techniques

B1.5 Tactical equipment

B2 Participates in Incidents Involving Firearms

B2.1 Aims and basic principles of tactics

B2.2 Initial response to incidents involving firearms

B2.3 Tactical options

B2.4 Actions

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D1 Participates in Armed Containment

D1.1 Participates in armed containment

D3 Deals with Subjects in Vehicles

D3.1 Deals with stationary vehicles (excluding LO5)

D2 Deals with Subjects on Foot

D2.1 Subjects who are on foot

D4 Deal with Subjects in Buildings and other Structures

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D13 Provides First Aid

D13.1 Provides first aid (standard)

J1 Guidance and Roles

J1.1 Authorised professional practice

J1.2 Roles and responsibilities

J1.3 National decision model

J2 Taser Use and Safe Handling

J2.1 Taser X26 characteristics and component parts

J2.2 Taser X26 cartridges, characteristics and handling

or

J2.3 Taser X2 characteristics and component parts

J2.4 Taser smart cartridges, characteristics and handling

or

J2.5 Taser 7 characteristics and component parts

J2.6 Taser 7 cartridges, characteristics and handling

J3 Dealing with Vulnerable People

J3.1 Dealing with Vulnerable People (common content with A1.2)

J4 Operational and Tactical Skills

J4.1 Carries Taser

J4.2 Applying the NDM

J4.3 Deals with people

J4.4 Weapon retention (common content with B1.4)

J5 Post deployment

J5.1 Post deployment

Officer safety training, in accordance the NPCC Personal Safety Manual

“Armed response vehicle officer”

Armed response vehicle (ARV) is the term used to define a patrolling vehicle which contains firearms and less lethal options. The vehicle is crewed by at least two police officers suitably trained in the use of the weapons and equipment carried in the vehicle. These officers may patrol overtly armed, [REDACTED] Ideally, at least two of the officers should be qualified to drive the vehicle.

The purpose of an ARV is to provide an immediate armed response to appropriate incidents with the ability to deploy firearms or less lethal options where justified.

It is important that ARVs are deployed to spontaneous incidents requiring a firearms response in sufficient numbers to effectively respond to the threat. ARVs should normally be deployed to a spontaneous incident requiring a firearms response in pairs. However, there will be occasions when this criterion is impossible to meet and where only one ARV is initially deployed, every effort should be made to provide additional armed support at the earliest practicable opportunity.

ARV Role Profile

Training standards

NPFTC compliance as an AFO and in the following additional modules:

B1 Carries, Handles and Shoots a Police Firearm

B1.2 Handles / shoots a police firearm (carbine)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

D1 Participates in Armed Containment

D1.2 Deals with mass exit

D2 Deals with Subjects on Foot

D2.2 Deploying from a vehicle

D3 Deals with Subjects in Vehicles

D3.1 Deals with stationary vehicles (LO 5)

D3.2 Stops moving vehicles

D3.3 Takes part in vehicle check points

[REDACTED]

D4 Deal with Subjects in Buildings and other Structures

D4.5 Performs deliberate search

D4.6 Conducts deliveries and collections

[REDACTED]

D4.8 Operates on buses and coaches

D4.9 Operates on trains

D5 Conducts Armed Searches in the Open

D5.1 Conducts area searches

[REDACTED]

D5.4 Conducts open country searches

D6 Armed patrolling in public spaces

D6.1 Armed patrolling in public spaces

E1 Dispatches Animals

E1.1 Dispatches animals

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Additional skills – team capability

To be provided as part of each individual ARV capability:

D11 Uses L104 launcher

D11.1 Uses L104 launcher

G3 Uses Forcible Entry Equipment

G3.1 Building construction

G3.2 Door types

G3.3 Window types

G3.4 PPE

G3.5 Uses forcible entry equipment