

Date: 8 September 2021

Our Reference: FOIA-2021-085

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

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('FoIA 2000') request, dated 10/08/2021, in which you requested:

"1. How many police officers have undergone the following training in each year since the courses were introduced:

- a. The Specialist Sexual Assault Investigation Development Programme (SSAIDP)
- b. The Sexual Offences Liaison Officers (SOLO) course
- c.

2. How many officers trained in the following does each force currently have? I would like an up-to-date record, broken down by force, if possible.

- a. The Specialist Sexual Assault Investigation Development Programme (SSAIDP)
- b. The Sexual Offences Liaison Officers (SOLO) course"

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 the FoIA, I can confirm the College **holds some information** relevant to your request. For ease, each part of your request has been dealt with separately below:

- **How many police officers have undergone the following training in each year since the courses were introduced:**

The Specialist Sexual Assault Investigation Development Programme (SSAIDP) – **Information partially held, please see disclosure document 1.**

The College does not hold this information broken down by each year. We hold an aggregated total which is regularly updated, containing data from 2013 to 2021. We rely on police forces to notify us of any changes in relation to this data, however, this is not a requirement, and consequently, the data may not be accurate.

An exemption under section 40(2) – personal information has been applied to any figures of 5 or less, allowing us to replace the figures with the words '5 or less'.

The Sexual Offences Liaison Officers (SOLO) course – **the College does not hold this information.**

- **How many officers trained in the following does each force currently have? I would like an up-to-date record, broken down by force, if possible.**

The Specialist Sexual Assault Investigation Development Programme (SSAIDP) – **Information partially held, please see disclosure document 1.**

The College holds an aggregated total per force which is regularly updated, containing data from 2013 to 2021. Therefore, we cannot provide the number of officers each force currently has. We rely on police forces to notify us of any changes in relation to this data, however, this is not a requirement, and consequently, the data may not be accurate.

An exemption under section 40(2) – personal information has been applied to any figures of 5 or less, allowing us to replace the figures with the words '5 or less'.

The Sexual Offences Liaison Officers (SOLO) course – **the College does not hold this information.**

Your rights can be found at the end of this letter. Please find an explanation of our decision to apply section 40(2) below.

Yours sincerely,

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College of Policing

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Section 40(2) – Personal information

Section 40(2) states that:

“Any information to which a request for information relates is also exempt information if-

- (a) It constitutes personal data which do not fall within subsection (1), and
- (b) Either the first or the second condition below is satisfied.”

Essentially, under section 40(2) FoIA (by virtue of section 40(3A)), personal data of a third party can be withheld if any of the data protection principles would be breached by disclosing that data.

Personal data is defined in section 3(2) of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), as being:

“Any information relating to an identified or identifiable living individual”.

Section 3(3) DPA defines an identifiable living individual as:

“a living individual who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to –

- (a) an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data or an online identifier, or
- (b) one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of the individual”.

As is stated above, the two main elements of personal data are: that the information must ‘relate’ to a living person and that the person must be identifiable. Information will relate to a person if it is: about them, linked to them, has some biographical significance for them, is used to inform decisions affecting them, and has them as its main focus or impacts on them in any way.

We consider that releasing low figures may lead to the indirect identification of an individual. The figures could be combined with other information in the public domain, which could lead to an indirect identification being made. This would breach data protection principles laid out in the Data Protection Act 2018.

We are committed to openness and transparency, and recognise the wider public interest in data on police officer training being made available. However, we also have a legal duty to ensure that the right to privacy is protected. Consequently, we do not believe that it would be fair to provide all figures in the disclosure document, and as a result, we have replaced all figures of 5 or less with the phrase ‘5 or less’.

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

Force	SSAIDP Registrations to date 2021
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Avon and Somerset	51
Bedfordshire	19
Cambridgeshire	6
Cheshire	36
City of London	5 or less
Cleveland	89
Cumbria	77
Derbyshire	106
Devon&Cornwall	274
Dorset	72
Durham	0
Dyfed-Powys	0
Essex	5 or less
Gloucester	87
GMP	5 or less
Gwent	15
Hampshire	5 or less
Hertfordshire	8
Humberside	58
Kent	0
Lancashire	76
Leicestershire	0
Lincolnshire	18
Merseyside	115
MET	65
Norfolk	0
North Wales	0
North Yorkshire	46
Northants	85
Northumbria	103
Nottinghamshire	0
PSNI	64
South Wales	118
South Yorkshire	10
Staffordshire	49
Suffolk	18
Surrey	5 or less
Sussex	0
Thames Valley	173
Warwickshire	41
West Mercia	237
West Midlands	115
West Yorkshire	0
Wiltshire	30
Total	2267