

Date: 23 September 2021

Our Reference: FOIA-2021-100

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 13/09/2021, in which you requested:

"As the College of Policing has oversight of all first aid training related matters, please could you answer the following questions?"

1. Whilst the College of Policing sets out the course content for various modules of first aid through the First Aid Learning Programme, does the College set the protocols of the individual subjects e.g. How CPR is to be performed, How bleeding is to be managed etc
 - a. If the College of Policing does set these protocols, where do they obtain their guidance from?
 - b. If the College of Policing does not set these protocols, are individual forces, automatically expected to change first aid protocols in line with the United Kingdom Resuscitation Council and European Resuscitation Council guidelines?
 - c. If we do not follow the United Kingdom Resuscitation Council/European Resuscitation Council guidelines, who sets our guidelines for first aid protocols?
2. When updates are published by the United Kingdom Resuscitation Council/European Resuscitation Council does the College of Policing issue these updates directly to forces or are Forces expected to automatically change the protocols in-line with the guidelines.
 - a. The guidelines changes in 2010 & 2015 issued several key changes to first aid protocols – Were these disseminated through the College of Policing or were forces expected to adopt these protocol changes automatically?

- b. If the College of Policing do/did issue these updates, can you advise when the last update was supplied to all forces and supply the update memos including the changes that were disseminated.”

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.

In line with section 1(1) of the FoIA, I can confirm the College **holds no recorded information** relevant to your request. However, please find a contextual explanation below:

The College of Policing First Aid Learning Programme (FALP) does not set specific protocols for the training of individual subjects. The FALP outlines the high level learning outcomes of what is to be covered in the training and the quality assurance process.

All training providers must follow the current best practice guidelines as stated by the HSE (direct from training provider advice on the HSE website). Forces should teach the first-aid management of injuries and illness, in relation to the topics covered in First Aid at Work and Emergency First Aid at Work (FAW/EFAW) training courses, in accordance with:

- current guidelines published by the Resuscitation Council (UK); and
- the current edition of the first-aid manual of the Voluntary Aid Societies (St John Ambulance, British Red Cross, St Andrew's First Aid); or
- other published guidelines, provided they are in line with the two above or supported by a responsible body of medical opinion.

Where an employer requires training other than FAW or EFAW qualifications to demonstrate workplace first-aid competence, forces should ensure that common elements of the syllabus are taught in accordance with the same guidelines and that there is a sound basis for the way in which any other elements are taught.

The FALP modules are mapped against established HSE first aid qualifications (EFAW and FAW) as set out in the HSE guidance) and forces have the responsibility to ensure the training staff or training providers are trained to these standards.

Forces are supported by a National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) chaired governance structure. This includes a regional first aid forum of subject matter experts (The Forum), supported by a national clinical panel, which reports to the NPCC Health, Safety and Welfare Strategic Group. The national clinical panel includes a representative from the faculty of pre hospital care – Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh – which is a responsible body of medical opinion and publishes clinical reviews. The College of Policing are engaged at every level of this structure. As part of the College's licence forces are required to establish local clinical governance who would also oversee necessary updates in force deliver of first aid training.

This structure facilitates consideration and communication with forces on issues raised within forces and recommendations pertinent to first aid delivered by police officers. This includes consideration of recommendations that follow Coroner and IOPC inquests as well as changes to first aid protocols and engages with the First Aid Quality Partnership. This represents the HSE as the industry lead in workplace first aid training. A representative for the emergency services that sits directly on this group. The HSE are also represented on the NPCC Health, safety and Welfare Strategic Group.

Communications to forces on changes to first aid protocols are made via the NPCC chaired governance group (The Forum), while broader strategic issues relating to first aid in the service would be communicated via the NPCC Health, Safety and Welfare Strategic Group.

The College of Policing was not created until 2013 but consideration of the changes made in 2010 would have been conducted under the governance of the above structures. The last update of the FALP specification was published in October 2020.

Your rights can be found below.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Kaufman | Legal Advisor
Information Management and Legal Team
College of Policing
Email: FOI@college.pnn.police.uk
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