

Date: 6 December 2021

Our Reference: FOIA-2021-140

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 23/11/2021, in which you requested:

"I am writing to request information regarding a new or trial version of the stage 3 briefing exercise in the Online Assessment Centre (OAC).

1. Is a new version of the stage 3 briefing exercise being trialled at the time of this request? (Date, 23/11/2021)
2. Has a new version been trialled during October or November of 2021?
3. If there is a new version that has/is being trialled during 2021, what are the trial start and end dates? (E.g. trial started 01/11/2021 - trial ends/ended 30/11/2021)
4. If there is a new version being trialled, how is it decided who will get the trial version and who will get the old version?
5. How is it being ensured that anyone who undertakes the trial version of the assessment is assessed fairly compared to those who undertake the old version?
6. If the trial is successful what date will the new stage 3 briefing be rolled out to everyone on the OAC?"

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.

1. Is a new version of the stage 3 briefing exercise being trialled at the time of this request?

(Date, 23/11/2021) - No, the briefing exercise was refreshed in September 2021.

2. Has a new version been trialled during October or November of 2021? – No, the briefing exercise was refreshed in September 2021.

3. If there is a new version that has/is being trialled during 2021, what are the trial start and end dates? (E.g. trial started 01/11/2021 - trial ends/ended 30/11/2021) - The new version was refreshed in September 2021.

4. If there is a new version being trialled, how is it decided who will get the trial version and who will get the old version? - From 06/09/2021, all online assessment process candidates took the same version of the briefing exercise (the new briefing exercise). There is no plan to have two live versions of the briefing exercise delivered at the same time.

5. How is it being ensured that anyone who undertakes the trial version of the assessment is assessed fairly compared to those who undertake the old version? - All assessors have been trained to appropriately assess the new briefing exercise. Assessors are unable to assess until they have completed the new training for the exercise. In addition, the College quality assures all assessors to ensure they are assessing competently and in line with assessor standards.

6. If the trial is successful what date will the new stage 3 briefing be rolled out to everyone on the OAC? - There has not been a trial of the briefing exercise, as the new briefing exercise is in the same exercise format as the old version. However, the exercise was piloted during the 1st June to the 7th July on a representative sample. This was not a live pilot, it was a design stage to ensure that: the exercise content was clear, the exercises effectively tested key competency and values areas, and the exercise content was relevant to role of a police constable. As mentioned above, the new briefing exercise was refreshed on the 6th September 2021.

Your rights can be found at the end of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

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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