

Date: 25th April 2022

Our Reference: FOIA-2022-036

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 29/03/2022, in which you requested:

"In relation to the NPPF step 2 SGT's exam 2022, please provide the following-

1. A breakdown of the top 250 scores achieved in the exam. (ie 1- 139/140 99% and so on).
2. With reference to the 417 who scored exceptional passes, a breakdown of how many of those candidates belonged to each force (ie City of London- 10 and so on).
3. The number of individuals who scored an exceptional pass in all 4 categories (crime, GPD, E&P, and traffic).
4. A Breakdown by force of the numbers who scored an exceptional pass in all 4 categories (crime, GPD, E&P, and traffic) (ie City of London- 10 and so on).
5. A breakdown of the highest scoring candidate for each force (ie Durham 139/140 99%)."

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, after conducting careful searches, I can confirm the College **holds recorded information** relevant to your request.

We have addressed each part of your request below:

1. **A breakdown of the top 250 scores achieved in the exam. (ie 1- 139/140 99% and so on) –** Information held. Please see sheet '1. Top 250 scores by percentage' of the attached disclosure document.
2. **With reference to the 417 who scored exceptional passes, a breakdown of how many of those candidates belonged to each force (ie City of London- 10 and so on) –** Information held. Please see sheet '2. Exc grade overall by force' of the attached disclosure document.
3. **The number of individuals who scored an exceptional pass in all 4 categories (crime, GPD, E&P, and traffic) –** Information held. 111 candidates scored 75% or more in all 4 of the subject categories.
4. **A Breakdown by force of the numbers who scored an exceptional pass in all 4 categories (crime, GPD, E&P, and traffic) (ie City of London- 10 and so on) –** Information held. Please see sheet '4. Exc grade in all 4 sub areas' of the attached disclosure document.
5. **A breakdown of the highest scoring candidate for each force (ie Durham 139/140 99%) –** Information held. Please see sheet '5. Highest score per force' of the attached disclosure document.

Please note, the highest scoring mark for the Port of Liverpool has been redacted under the section 40(2) – personal information exemption. Please find an explanation of our decision to apply this below.

You can also find the NPPF step two legal examination sergeants' 2022 Results and analysis overview here: <https://assets.college.police.uk/s3fs-public/2022-03/NPPF-Sergeants-results-and-analysis-overview.pdf>

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

Yours sincerely,

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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 the highest score for the Port of Liverpool may lead to the indirect identification of an individual, as there were a low number of candidates who sat the exam for that force. If the highest score was released, it could be combined with other information in the public domain, which may 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 candidate scores being made available. However, we also have a legal duty to ensure that the right to privacy is

protected. Consequently, we not believe that it would be fair to provide the highest score for the Port of Liverpool.

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

77.86

Force	Number of candidates scoring an exceptional grade in exam overall
Avon and Somerset	12
Bedfordshire	4
British Transport Police	4
Cambridgeshire	8
Cheshire	6
City of London	3
Cleveland	1
Cumbria	3
Derbyshire	1
Devon and Cornwall	7
Dorset	9
Durham	4
Dyfed Powys	4
Essex	16
GMP	22
Gwent	6
Hampshire	4
Hertfordshire	12
Humberside	7
Kent	21
Lancashire	8
Leicestershire	2
Lincolnshire	5
Merseyside	17
Metropolitan	90
Norfolk	7
North Wales	6
North Yorkshire	2
Northamptonshire	6
Northumbria	6
Nottinghamshire	4
South Wales	8
South Yorkshire	9
Staffordshire	4
Suffolk	5
Surrey	11
Sussex	9
Thames Valley	18
Warwickshire	4
West Mercia	7
West Midlands	11
West Yorkshire	17
Wiltshire	7

Force	Number of candidates getting an exceptional score in all 4 subject areas
Avon and Somerset	3
Bedfordshire	1
Cambridgeshire	3
Cheshire	1
City of London	1
Cumbria	1
Devon and Cornwall	2
Dorset	3
Dyfed Powys	2
Essex	4
GMP	6
Gwent	2
Hampshire	1
Hertfordshire	2
Humberside	1
Kent	8
Lancashire	3
Lincolnshire	1
Merseyside	4
Metropolitan	25
Norfolk	2
North Wales	3
Northamptonshire	1
Northumbria	3
Nottinghamshire	1
South Wales	2
South Yorkshire	2
Suffolk	2
Surrey	4
Sussex	2
Thames Valley	3
Warwickshire	1
West Mercia	2
West Midlands	3
West Yorkshire	3
Wiltshire	3

Total= 111

Force	Percentage Score
Avon and Somerset	90.71
Bedfordshire	85.00
British Transport Police	83.57
Cambridgeshire	83.57
Cheshire	80.71
City of London	85.00
Cleveland	77.14
Cumbria	89.29
Derbyshire	78.57
Devon and Cornwall	82.14
Dorset	85.00
Durham	79.29
Dyfed Powys	87.86
Essex	88.57
Gloucestershire	71.43
GMP	87.14
Gwent	86.43
Hampshire	92.86
Hertfordshire	86.43
Humberside	83.57
Kent	93.57
Lancashire	88.57
Leicestershire	79.29
Lincolnshire	87.14
Merseyside	85.00
Metropolitan	92.14
Norfolk	82.86
North Wales	86.43
North Yorkshire	80.71
Northamptonshire	86.43
Northumbria	92.86
Nottinghamshire	88.57
Port of Bristol	66.43
Port of Dover	66.43
Port of Liverpool	
South Wales	83.57
South Yorkshire	86.43
Staffordshire	80.71
Suffolk	86.43
Sussex	87.14
Thames Valley	84.29
Warwickshire	86.43
West Mercia	87.86
West Midlands	87.86
West Yorkshire	87.86
Wiltshire	90.00