

Our Ref: FOIA-2022-029

6 May 2022

**RE: Your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000) request**

I write in response to your email dated 8 March 2022 and your freedom of information request about overseas training offered by the College. Having extended the deadline to reply to your request to consider the public interest test of a number of exemptions under the Act, I am now issuing my decision to you.

**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.

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. With this in mind, I can confirm that the College does hold some of the information you have requested and, where possible, that information is to be disclosed to you.

I have set out your request in bold for ease of reference and our answer is provided below each sub-question.

**Training provided by the College of Policing to overseas police officers in 2022 so far as well as 2021.**

**1. In each case please include:**

**a) The dates of the training**

The College holds this information and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**.

**b) Country/ locality of the overseas force**

The College holds this information and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**.

**c) The name and purpose of the training**

The College holds this information and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**.

**d) The cost of the contract**

The College holds this information but it is to be withheld because the exemptions at section 27(1) and 43(2) Commercial Interests are engaged and the public interest test favours withholding the information . Please see **Appendix A** for an explanation of our reliance on this exemption.

**e) The source(s) of funding**

The College holds this information and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**.

**f) Specify the particular police force or institution and the unit/branch being provided with the training**

The College holds information in relation to the police force or institution involved in the training and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**. We do not hold additional information about the unit / branch of the police force or institution involved in the training.

**g) The rank/ status and number of personnel trained**

The College holds information in relation to the number of personnel involved in the training and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**. We do not hold additional information about the rank / status of the personnel trained.

**h) The location of the training**

The College holds this information and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**.

**i) Names of other public bodies or private entities engaged in the planning or delivery of the training and details of their role**

The College holds this information and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**.

**j) Whether consent was obtained from the Home Secretary, as under Section 26 of the Police Act**

The College does not hold this information because this type of consent request does not apply to the College.

**k) Whether forms were submitted to the International Police Assistance Board or Joint International Policing Hub**

The College holds this information and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**.

**l) Whether an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment was carried out and if so to which authority it was submitted.**

The College holds this information in relation to some countries and after careful consideration it is to be provided to you. Please see **Disclosure Document 1**.

**2. Forthcoming contracts for training of overseas police officers that have been agreed or proposed. In each case please include the information requested in points a-l above.**

Please see the answers above, our answer to all sub-questions in relation to prospective training are the same as our response for training in 2021/2022. Relevant disclosures for our prospective training can be found in **Disclosure Document 1**. Please note that International Police Assistance Board, Joint International Policing Hub and Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessments (where they indeed apply) to prospective training have not yet been made and we therefore do not hold this information at this time.

## Appendix A

### Section 27 (international relations)

(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice

—

(a) relations between the United Kingdom and any other State,

(b) .....

(c) the interests of the United Kingdom abroad, or

(d) the promotion or protection by the United Kingdom of its interests abroad.

Where information is held, Section 27(1) (a), (c) and (d) are relevant to all parts of your request.

The College accepts that releasing detailed information about the nature, date and cost of training to international forces and agencies may be of interest to the public. We accept disclosing this information would bring greater transparency and aid the public in being able to see the nature of the work we do and the way in which we have supported international policing. It would also help to provide more detail on the ways in which the College is able to generate additional revenue to the grant-in aid received from the Home Office. Additionally, it would also provide reassurance that the College is sharing best practice from the UK with other police forces around the world. This international sharing of knowledge contributes to tackling crime globally which, in turn, is likely to strengthen actual and perceptions of personal safety. However, the effective conduct of international relations is reliant upon an open dialogue between the College and its international clients, partners and other stakeholders in maintaining the trust and confidence of those with we choose to work with. If we fail to do so, the interests of the United Kingdom abroad may be adversely affected. Providing detail on how and what training we provide to particular countries and regions (over and above the broader information published on our website) could potentially damage the bilateral relationship between the UK and our international clients. This would reduce our ability to promote UK interests abroad and may potentially affect the relationships we have with those clients, as well as any prospective clients that may wish to work with us in the future. The College is committed to openness and transparency and we accept that we have a duty to share detail about our work, where we are able to do so. Having balanced the public interest factors, all of the information you have requested is to be provided to you save for the information in relation to sub-question (d) which relates to the cost of each individual contract. Releasing financial information with this level of granular detail is likely to impede our ability to negotiate pricing and have an open dialogue with our customers and partners. This in turn would be likely to impact on our relations with those countries and our wider interests abroad.

### **Section 31(1)(a) (law enforcement)**

Where information is held, Section 31(1)(a) is relevant to all parts of your request save for sub-question (d) which relates to the cost of the individual contracts.

As a publicly funded body and from an ethical perspective, the College accepts it has a duty to make appropriate information available to the public wherever possible. We appreciate that there is a public interest in the nature of the training provided by the College to our international clients and our International Faculty publish information, wherever possible, in order to better inform the public about the work that we do. Additionally, we appreciate that spending of public money and a public authority's ability to generate income, are matters of strong public interest. However, the College must also consider the wider impact of disclosing specific detail about our international training. By the very nature of our work, the disclosure of the information requested carries the potential risk of highlighting areas of weakness within a country or police force. The possible disclosure of law enforcement capabilities, or lack thereof, in certain countries may have a negative impact on law enforcement operations, both in the UK and abroad. This in turn could increase the risk to the safety of the public and indeed law enforcement personnel in those countries with which we engage. Disclosure could hinder the effective prevention and detection of crime as it has the potential to reveal gaps in the capabilities within those countries. 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 community benefit of possession of the information outweighs the potential harm. It is not an evaluation of what interests the public. On weighing up the competing interests, I consider that the public interest test favours disclosing the requested information. I am not satisfied that the level of harm or prejudicial effect under section 31(1)(a) is sufficient on this occasion to prevent disclosure.

### **Section 38(1)(b) (health & safety)**

Where information is held, Section 38(1)(b) is relevant to all parts of your request save for sub-question (d) which relates to the cost of the individual contracts. This exemption falls to be considered where there is a risk of danger to any individual. We accept for the reasons outlined above, there is a strong public interest in providing information about our international training. However, releasing certain information, particularly in relation to personnel related questions, may reveal weaknesses in the law enforcement capabilities of certain countries. These weaknesses could then be exploited by criminals, which potentially presents a risk to the public within those countries, along with law enforcement personnel. However, on

this occasion, given the high level nature of the information you have requested, I do not believe that the level of harm / prejudicial effect is such that the public interest test favours withholding the information. It is therefore to be disclosed to you.

### **Section 43(2) (commercial interests)**

Where information is held, Section 43(2) is relevant to sub-question (d) which relates to the cost of the individual contracts.

The College accepts it has a duty to make appropriate information available to the public wherever possible. We appreciate that there is a public interest in the income generated by the training provided by the College to our international clients and our International Faculty publish information, wherever possible, in order to better inform the public about the work that we do. Additionally, we appreciate that spending of public money and a public authority's ability to generate income, are matters of strong public interest. However, the College must also consider the wider impact of disclosing detail about the income generated by our international training. Disclosure of financial information relating to specific contracts with international partner organisations and countries would be likely to be prejudicial to the commercial interests of the College. There is a public interest in withholding information which, if disclosed, would reduce the ability of the College to compete in a commercial environment. Revealing details of income generation would be detrimental to the College's ability to negotiate other contracts and procurements, allowing exploitation for profit or other gain. The College does not have a monopoly on the training we offer abroad and many other organisations provide similar training. Releasing specific information would be likely to hinder and impede our ability to negotiate and compete in the commercial environment. In addition to this, disclosure of certain information would result in loss of customer confidence and damage the relationship of trust that we have with the countries/organisations for which we offer international support and training and, in turn, damage the commercial interests of the College through loss of trade. On balance, we consider that the harm of disclosure and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the contractual cost information to you.

### **Section 23(5) – Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters Section 24(2) – National security**

Additionally, the College of Policing can neither confirm nor deny whether the above information represents all the information held that would meet the terms of your request, as the duty to comply with section 1(1)(a) of the FoIA 2000 does not apply by virtue of section 23(5) and section 24(2). Under s23(5) the duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the

disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3). This is an absolute exemption and a public interest test is not required.

Section 24(2) is a qualified exemption and as such there is a requirement to evidence any harm in confirming or denying that any other information is held as well as considering the public interest. We appreciate the importance of the public being informed on how public money is being spent and how public authorities conduct their activities and generate their income. Confirming whether any other information regarding the provision of training to international states is held would increase public confidence and allow for better informed public debate. Disclosure under the FoIA 2000 is a disclosure to the world at large, therefore, disclosure of the information, if held, runs the risk of providing criminals with information, that when used on its own or with other information is likely to have an undesirable effect on the national security of the states concerned and the UK. This would in turn, have an impact on the ability of these states and the UK to protect itself from criminality and increases the risk to the safety of its citizens. It is also likely to have an adverse effect on law enforcement operations, both in the UK and abroad. Confirming or denying whether any other information is held would have the effect of making security measures in international states less effective since it may highlight individual vulnerabilities in those states. It would also have the effect of making security measures in the UK less effective as international police forces may be reluctant to share information and intelligence in order to combat threats from criminals. To the extent that section 24(2) applies, the College of Policing has determined that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether or not any other information is held. I can therefore neither confirm nor deny whether any other information relevant to your request is held.

I trust this letter answers your request. Your rights are detailed at **Appendix B**.

Yours sincerely,

**Jessica Street | Legal Services**

**Legal Services Manager**

**Enabling Services**

**College of Policing**

Email: [FOI@college.police.uk](mailto:FOI@college.police.uk)

## **Appendix B**

### **Your Rights**

If you are dissatisfied with the way we have handled your request, you can ask us to review our decision..

Internal review requests should be made in writing, within forty (40) working days and sent by email to:

**[FOI@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FOI@college.pnn.police.uk)**

We will aim to respond to your request for internal review within 20 working days.

### **The Information Commissioner**

If you are dissatisfied with our response you can make a referral to the Information Commissioner's Office 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, you can contact them by telephone on 0303 123 1113.

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Country	Customer Name	Course	Purpose of the Training	Start date	End date
Cyprus	Sovereign Area Base Police	Senior Leadership Development Programme	Leadership Training	08/11/2021 14/02/2022	12/11/2021 18/02/2022
Cyprus	Sovereign Area Base Police	Human Intelligence / Covert Human Intelligence Source (HUMINT/CHIS)	CHIS Training	14/03/2022	25/03/2022
Maldives	Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO)	International Leadership Programme 147/22	Leadership Training	28/02/2022	25/03/2022
Albania	Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC)	International Leadership Programme 147/22	Leadership Training	28/02/2022	25/03/2022
Oman	Royal Oman Police	International Leadership Programme 147/22	Leadership Training	28/02/2022	25/03/2022
Oman	Royal Oman Police	Junior Leadership Programme	Leadership Training	06/02/2022	17/02/2022
Kenya	FCDO Kenya	CTSECO Training	Counter Terrorism Security Coordinator	24/01/2022	28/01/2022
Germany	USAF Police Squadron	Investigation Training	Investigation Training	11/10/2021	22/10/2021
Sweden	Swedish Police Authority	CTSECO Training	Counter Terrorism Security Coordinator	27/09/2021	08/10/2021
Turks and Caicos Islands	Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force	Strategic Command Course	Leadership Training	20/09/2021	13/12/2021
Rep of Ireland	An Garda Siochana	Strategic Command Course	Leadership Training	20/09/2021	13/12/2021
Maldives	Maldives Police Service	Strategic Command Course	Leadership Training	20/09/2021	13/12/2021
Bermuda	Bermuda Police Service	Strategic Command Course	Leadership Training	20/09/2021	13/12/2021

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Rep of Ireland	An Garda Siochana	Public Order Public Safety course	Public Order Public Safety Training	26/04/2021	30/04/2021
Canada	Vancouver Police	Gold Command	Public Order Public Safety Training	07/02/2022	11/02/2022
For incoming contracts for training of overseas police officers that have been agreed or proposed.					
Oman ( Agreed)	Royal Oman Police	Junior Leadership Course	Leadership Training	15/05/2022	26/05/2022
Oman (Agreed)	Royal Oman Police	Middle Leadership	Leadership Training	13/11/2022	08/12/2022
Oman (Agreed)	Royal Oman Police	Senior Leadership	Leadership Training	13/11/2022	15/12/2022
Oman ( Agreed)	Royal Oman Police	Junior Leadership Course	Leadership Training	06/02/2023	17/02/2023
Singapore (Proposed)	FCDO	Immigration Interview Course	Interview Training	TBC	TBC
Gibraltar (Proposed)	Royal Gibraltar Police	Multi-Agency Gold Incident Command (MAGIC)	MAGIC	TBC	TBC

TBC = To be confirmed

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<b>Cost of Contract</b>	<b>Source of Funding</b>	<b>No. of personnel trained</b>	<b>UK/ In country delivery</b>	<b>Organisations Involved in planning &amp; delivery</b>	<b>Section 26 of the Police Act</b>	<b>Forms Submitted to Joint International Policing Hub (JIPH)</b>	<b>Whether an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance Assessment was carried out and if so to which authority it was submitted</b>
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	SABP Cyprus	19	In Country		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Not required due to Sovereign Base
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	SABP Cyprus	12	In Country		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Not required due to Sovereign Base
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	FCDO	2	UK	FCDO	N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	HMRC	1	UK	HMRC	N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Royal Oman Police	1	UK		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Royal Oman Police	17	In Country		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	FCDO Kenya		In Country	FCDO	N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	United States Airforce		In Country	United States Airforce	N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Swedish Police Authority	2	UK		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force	1	UK		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Not required due to British Overseas Territory
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	An Garda Siochana	2	UK		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Not required
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Maldives Police Service	2	UK		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Bermuda Police Service	1	UK		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Not required due to British Overseas Territory

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Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	An Garda Siochana	4	UK		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Not required
Total contract value TBC in any event. Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Vancouver Police	16	In Country		N/A	International Police Assistance Brief (IPAB)	Yes to JIPH
Total contract value TBC in any event. Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Royal Oman Police	17	In Country				
Total contract value TBC in any event. Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Royal Oman Police	16	In Country				
Total contract value TBC in any event. Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Royal Oman Police	16	In Country				
Total contract value TBC in any event. Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Royal Oman Police	17	In Country				
Total contract value TBC in any event. Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	FCDO	12	In Country				
Total contract value TBC in any event. Withheld s43(2) Commercial Interests	Royal Gibraltar Police		In Country				



