

**Date: 19/08/2022**

**Our Reference: FOIA-2022-075**

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

I write in response to your Freedom of Information request, originally dated 12/08/2022, and was subsequently clarified as:

*"Your web page indicates "This APP provides direction which supports effective and consistent firearms licensing"*

*I have discovered that the NPCC guidance attd is not applied by all Police Forces, so I am seeking the law/regulations which relate to this type of guidance.*

*I expect Police Forces are obliged to follow the NPCC/APP guidance to provide consistency obviously otherwise there can be no consistency.*

*What I am asking for is the root law/regulation/instruction which requires Police Forces to follow NPCC guidance, bearing in mind that not applying this guidance produces inconsistencies in the law, with clear implications for the justice system, and the ramifications for Police Forces who do not comply with the guidance."*

**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 does hold some of the information you require, which is readily available on our website.

The College of Policing provides guidance to forces on a number of aspects of policing including firearms licensing via our Authorised Professional Practice. The College does not perform a supervisory, regulatory or oversight function of UK policing. We don't provide opinion or instruct forces on how to

approach individual cases and you should liaise with the relevant force if you have concerns about how a particular decision has been handled.

Information regarding our APP, where it applies and it's legal status can be found here: [Using APP | College of Policing](#). Please also note it is not the responsibility of the College to interpret legislation on behalf of members of the public.

Yours sincerely,

**James Rose, Legal Advisor**  
**Business Administration, Enabling Services**  
**College of Policing**  
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## **Appendix A - 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**

