

Date: 25th October 2022
Our Reference: FOIA-2022_098

RE: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (“FOIA 2000”)

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 request dated 7th October 2022, in which you requested the following information:

From September 1st, 2020, until 31st August 2022 - how many applications for short term access have been received from academics (not serving officers or College staff) to the College of Policing Library.

During the same period how many applications for short term access were granted?

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.

Having considered your request and conducted reasonable searches for information, I am now issuing my decision to you. I can confirm that the College holds some information that is relevant to your request and where that information is available, it is to be provided to you. For ease of reference, I have set out your original questions in bold with my response underneath.

From September 1st, 2020, until 31st August 2022 - how many applications for short term access have been received from academics (not serving officers or College staff) to the College of Policing Library.

For the period 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2022, the National Police Library (NPL) received 49 requests to join the library from academics who did not work in policing.

During the same period how many applications for short term access were granted?

The NPL granted five membership requests to academics; all of whom were working directly with College of Policing staff on College research projects.

The reason for limiting NPL membership is primarily due to licensing restrictions. The NPL pays for annual subscriptions for police to access the resources and we cannot breach our licensing agreements with publishers. Our annual costs would increase significantly if we widened access to include academics. In addition, due to limited staffing we must prioritise access to the NPL for police, as they do not have access to a university library.

If non-members wish to access journals, it is possible to access Police Library Search to view the titles of journal articles. These journals can then be accessed via university libraries or the British Library.

If non-members wish to view the NPL's unique printed resources that cannot be accessed anywhere else, the NPL will review these requests on a case-by-case basis and may provide access if the resources are not restricted to police-only.

I trust this letter answers your questions. Your rights are provided in **Appendix A**.

Yours sincerely,

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Legal and Compliance Team

Business Services

College of Policing

Email: FOI@college.police.uk

Website: www.college.police.uk

Appendix A

Rights

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of the College of Policing made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you can request that the decision is reviewed internally.

Internal review requests should be made in writing, within **forty (40) working days** from the date of our original response, and addressed to: FOI team, Central House, Beckwith Knowle, Otley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UF or email FOI@college.police.uk

In all possible circumstances the College of Policing will aim to respond to your request for internal review within **20 working days**.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

If, after lodging an internal review request with the College of Policing you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make application to the Information Commissioner 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 or write to them at the following address:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113