

Date: 26th March 2021

Our Reference: FOIA-2021-027

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 **16/03/2021**, in which you requested:

"Under FOIA I request the following information regarding Police Pursuits.

- 1) What training is given (theory and practical) regarding IPP (Initial pursuit) to Response Drivers?
- 2) What training is given (theory and practical) regarding TPAC to Advanced Drivers?
- 3) A copy of the Police Pursuit Tactics directory / copy of range of tactics available for pursuits"

On **17/03/2021** you provided clarification for questions one and two, stating:

"A description of Training provided will suffice, however if there are any training notes / aids that can be released under FOIA this would be greatly appreciated."

Decision

When a request for information is made under the 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 2000, I can confirm the College **does hold** information relevant to your request. Please find responses to each part of your request below:

1) What training is given (theory and practical) regarding IPP (Initial pursuit) to Response Drivers?

Theoretical training is given to the candidates, introducing them to: police pursuits, relevant key terminology, the role of those involved and tactics available to prevent a pursuit, as well as how pursuits are authorised and controlled. Upon completion of subsequent practical training, the successful

candidate will have the knowledge, understanding and skills required to be able to conduct the initial phase of a police pursuit. This will include effective decision making and communicative abilities.

There are training notes / aids held by the College, but they have been withheld in their entirety under section 31(1) – Law enforcement. Please see our reasoning for this below.

2) What training is given (theory and practical) regarding TPAC to Advanced Drivers?

Candidates undergoing TPAC training will already be trained in Initial Phase Pursuit and Advanced Driving. They will carry out additional theoretical training on the tactical phase of a pursuit, prior to receiving practical training. Upon completion of the practical training, the successful candidate will be able to explain and demonstrate the tactics available to bring a pursuit to a successful outcome.

There are training notes held by the College, but they have been withheld in their entirety under section 31(1) – Law enforcement. Please see our reasoning for this below.

3) A copy of the Police Pursuit Tactics directory / copy of range of tactics available for pursuits

Information held. However, the document has been withheld in its entirety under section 31(1) – Law enforcement. Please find an explanation for this towards the end of the letter.

Please find an explanation of our decision to apply section 31(1) below. Your rights are provided at the bottom of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Kaufman | Legal Advisor

Information Management and Legal Team

College of Policing

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Section 31(1) - Law enforcement

Information may be exempt under section 31(1) if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice -
(a) the prevention or detection of crime,
(b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

The above exemption requires a consideration of the prejudice or harm that would, or would be likely, to result from disclosure. The public interest test must then be considered, which requires an analysis of the arguments on both sides as to whether the public interest in disclosure is outweighed by any harm that disclosure may cause.

The College accepts that releasing the Police Pursuit Tactics directory and training notes / aids would be of interest to the general public. We agree that to disclose this information would allow the public to see the nature of the work we do and the way in which we have supported policing. It would also help provide reassurance to the public that the College is fully transparent about the information they hold.

However, we also recognise that the effective conduct of the police service depends on certain tactical information not being released into the public domain. Due to the tactically sensitive, and indepth, nature of the directory, and the tactical nature of training notes / aids, we believe that release may pose a threat to the public or law enforcement. Disclosure could hinder the effective prevention and detection of crime as it has the potential to reveal specific tactics the police use. 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 public benefit of possession of the information outweighs the potential harm of releasing that information, but it is not merely an evaluation of what interests the public. On weighing up the competing interests, I consider that the public interest test favours withholding the document in its entirety. It is believed that disclosure of the relevant content **would be likely to** prejudice effective law enforcement. Disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime, or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Consequently, the Police Pursuit Tactics directory and the training notes / aids will be withheld in their entirety.

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