

Date: 7th April 2021

Our Reference: FOIA-2021-031

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 **23/03/2021**, in which you requested:

- a. Information as to when the Protest Guidance was first used to teach Public Order Public Safety commanders and advisers, and whether it is still being used for this purpose
- b. Information as to when the Protest Guidance was first circulated to police forces and to which police forces was it circulated, and whether it is still being treated as 'live' guidance by police forces
- c. Disclosure of the Protest Guidance
- d. Information as to when the revisions to the Protest Guidance will be completed
- e. Disclosure of the revised Protest Guidance once the revision is complete
- f. Disclosure of any other NPCC or CoP Guidance where the phrase "aggravated activism" is defined.

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.

In line with section 1(1) of the FoIA 2000, I can confirm the College **does not hold any recorded** information relevant to your request. However, please find a contextual response to each part of your request below:

Information as to when the Protest Guidance was first used to teach Public Order Public Safety commanders and advisers, and whether it is still being used for this purpose

The College of Policing produces guidance for police forces; it must be noted that there is a distinction between guidance and operational advice. We believe the document you are referring to is the NPCC Protest Operational Advice Document, which was referenced in a report produced by HMICFRS.

The NPCC Operational Advice Document is still in draft form. Public order safety commanders and advisors have commented on draft versions of this document, when the College of Policing facilitated the public consultation, beginning on 01/08/19. The Operational Advice Document contents are not used for

training purposes as part of the National Police Public Order Training Curriculum. As part of the 2020 annual refresher training, officers were made aware of the draft document, by the NPCC lead.

The NPCC are responsible for publishing the final draft.

Information as to when the Protest Guidance was first circulated to police forces and to which police forces was it circulated, and whether it is still being treated as ‘live’ guidance by police forces

I can confirm that although the draft NPCC Protest Operational Advice Document was circulated to forces at the time of the public consultation, it does not currently constitute national guidance as contained within the College’s Authorised Professional Practice.

Disclosure of the Protest Guidance

The NPCC are responsible for publication of the Protest Operational Advice Document. We recommend you contact the NPCC for an updated publication date. As stated above, a draft version of the document was circulated as part of the public consultation process.

Information as to when the revisions to the Protest Guidance will be completed

We recommend you contact the NPCC for an updated publication date.

Disclosure of the revised Protest Guidance once the revision is complete

The NPCC are responsible for publication of the Protest Operational Advice Document. We suggested you contact the NPCC for an updated publication date.

Disclosure of any other NPCC or CoP Guidance where the phrase “aggravated activism” is defined.

The term ‘aggravated activism’ is not used by the College.

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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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