

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Our Reference:** FOIA-2021-054

**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 **10/05/2021**, in which you requested:

“Are there any working time regulation for AFO deployments? What is the maximum time AFO can be standing on their post without any break on a normal working day, and what is the maximum permitted shift in hours on a normal working day?”

Could you provide me with Standard Operational Practice handbook for AFOs in pdf format, please?”

**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, we have provided you with some contextual information.

For ease, we have dealt with each part of your request separately:

**Are there any working time regulation for AFO deployments?**

No recorded information held. However, for context, the Working Time Directive applies equally to AFOs, as it would to any other police officer. There is, however, no nationally prescribed and documented Working Time Regulation for AFO deployments.

Please see the 'Command and operational resilience' section of the College's Armed Policing Authorised Professional Practice document, which can be accessed [here](#), for contextual information.

**What is the maximum time AFO can be standing on their post without any break on a normal working day?**

No recorded information held. However, for context, this would be a matter for individual forces. It is often not possible to legislate for operational requirements, and forces will undertake their own consultation and risk assessments prior to determining shift patterns. Operational necessity may require changes to be made to shift patterns.

Please see the 'Command and operational resilience' section of the College's Armed Policing Authorised Professional Practice document, which can be accessed [here](#), for contextual information.

**What is the maximum permitted shift in hours on a normal working day?**

No recorded information held. Please see the 'Command and operational resilience' section of the College's Armed Policing Authorised Professional Practice document, which can be accessed [here](#), for contextual information.

**Could you provide me with Standard Operational Practice handbook for AFOs in pdf format, please?**

The College **does not hold** a Standard Operational Practice handbook.

The national guidance for armed deployments is the College of Policing's Armed Policing Authorised Professional Practice, which can be accessed [here](#). It is not available as a PDF, as it is a web based live document.

Forces develop their own Standard Operational Practices from the content contained within the national guidance. Therefore, we would recommend you contact individual forces to request a copy of their Standard Operational Practice handbook.

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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Website: [www.college.police.uk](http://www.college.police.uk)

## **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**