

Date: 16 April 2021
Our Reference: REV-2021-001

RE: Request for internal review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write in response to your request for an internal review of our response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or 'FoIA 2000') request with our reference FOIA-2021-022. I note the specific grounds of your request for the review are:

1) It is within the public interest to know whether the UK is training the police of human rights abusing states, such as Colombia, where you have acknowledged that police are being trained.

The UN recognises that the Colombian police are, each year, responsible for serious human rights abuses:

<https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/situation-human-rights-colombia-report-united-nations-high-commissioner-human-0>

It follows that it is also within the public interest to know the nature of this training, cost, and how many individuals were trained.

2) you have not provided me with all of the information that I requested, namely the nature of the training, date of the training, and cost of the training. Moreover, I find it unlikely that you are unaware of the number of individuals that have been trained in Colombia*. In the event that you do not have an exact number, please provide an estimate.

3) it is not clear from your response whether N/A means you have not trained police from/in Bolivia, Brazil and/or Ecuador*, or that you hold information regarding these countries but it is exempt from disclosure.

Decision

The purpose of an internal review is to allow us to review, and, where necessary, to revise our response. I can confirm that the College of Policing holds information relevant to your request. After careful consideration of that information, I am satisfied that the following exemptions were correctly applied to your request:

- Section 27 – International Relations
- Section 31 – Law Enforcement
- Section 38 – Health and Safety
- Section 43 – Commercial Interests.
- Section 23(5) – Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters
- Section 24(2) – National security

A full explanation of the reasons why these exemptions are applicable to the information requested was provided to you in our initial response and I do not consider it necessary to add anything further. I have however addressed your specific points for review below.

- 1) The College is committed to being open and transparent and fully recognises the public interest in our work, particularly that which involves international training. As a result, we actively publish and update information on this work on our website, which can be accessed here: [Our international work | College of Policing](#). However, with respect to the information held that falls within the scope of your request, I am satisfied that the exemptions stated were correctly applied. I am also satisfied that there was a careful consideration of both the public interest test and of the harm or prejudice that would, or would be likely, to result from disclosure. For the reasons set out in full in our initial response, we are unable to provide any additional information to that which has already been provided to you.
- 2) As advised in our initial response we are unable to provide more specific details due to the exemptions that are engaged. I am satisfied that a full explanation was given on the application of these exemptions in our initial response.

I have checked with the subject matter expert and can confirm that we do not hold information relating to the number of individuals that have been trained in Columbia.

- 3) I can confirm that we did not provide training to Bolivia, Brazil or Ecuador during the years specified in your original request. Please accept my apologies that this was not sufficiently clear from the information provided in our initial response

We trust that this letter answers your questions. Should you wish to further appeal our decision, you may submit a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The details for the ICO can be found along with your Rights in **Appendix A**.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Lawrence | Legal Advisor
Information Management and Legal Team
College of Policing

Email: FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.college.police.uk

Appendix A

Rights

The Information Commissioner

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, write to:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Phone: 0303 123 1113