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27/11/2018

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 196/18

Thank you for your request for information regarding Police Uniform which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

1. Please provide a record which details the national police uniform. For example, any national guidelines on what Police Officers should wear on duty.
2. Please provide a record which confirms whether the Police in England and Wales have a minimum Personal Safety Equipment uniform which each officer is required to wear, to include footwear, and if possible, with guidance as to compliance with Health and Safety legislation and the HSE Executive.

NPCC Response:

At the time of your request, the NPCC was not under the auspices of FOIA.

Following the dissolution of the Association of Police Chief Officers (ACPO), designation under the Freedom of Information Act did not automatically transfer across to the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). The NPCC, as the new coordinating body, should clearly be open to the same level of scrutiny and transparency as its predecessor

The NPCC will comply with the spirit of the Freedom of Information Act and will respond to all requests received up to and including 21/11/2018.

Applicants should note, however, that the formal designation is in place from 22/11/2018. The Internal Review process will remain in place but there is no legal basis to pursue complaints to the Information Commissioner's Office for requests made prior to the 22/11/2018.

The NPCC would have responded in the following way:

1. Police Officers must be recognisable as such when on duty. That is either through wearing uniform, or having a warrant card if in plain clothes. Chief Constables must ensure that officers are equipped for their duties. That includes risk assessment about what protective equipment is required in each force.



Guidance has been agreed by the National Strategic Uniform Board around what a core uniform offer can include, and this will normally include offering some local choice from the list below:

This clothing and equipment is available to be procured via the National Uniform Managed Service. Currently about 30% of officers are in Forces are signed up to this service, although that number is growing. Other Forces procure uniform and equipment individually and / or through collaborative arrangements.

Additionally, outside of the Act, Guidance is offered about appearance standards via the College Policing website. For your convenience I have provided a direct web-link below:

http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=2ahUKEwiC1c fv-t_eAhUGbVAKHXUYBHQQFjAAegQIBRAC&url=http%3A%2F%2Frecruit.college.police.uk%2FOfficer%2FDocuments%2FAppearance_Standards_GuidanceDocument.docx&usg=AOvVaw0mg47mRed893o54GxvzjWO

2. Wherever there are risks to health and safety that cannot be adequately controlled in other ways, the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 require PPE to be supplied.

The wearing of PPE also depends on role an Officer is in and what role they are undertaking within that role and often includes the ability for Officers to dynamically risk assess situations themselves in some circumstances. For example, not every Officer is required to wear body armour at all times as, in certain roles and / or undertaking some duties the musculo-skeletal risk created by the wearing of such PPE may be greater than the threat posed. A good example of this would be found in station based duties, or whilst engaging with a class in a primary school.

Officers in roles that are identified by a Force as needing specific protective footwear are provided locally with that footwear. For instance that may include public order trained officers.

Typically however, PPE is available, dependent on role, and in relation to uniformed staff includes a baton; handcuffs; incapacitant spray; body armour and Conductive Electrical Devices. Specialist roles have additional PPE available to them, such as shields, alternate forms of body armour and firearms. However, each force defines what must /should be worn or carried in relation to roles, and this can and does vary. Constables for example might be in a response role and have one policy requirement, or in a detective role and have another.

Yours sincerely

Sherry Traquair

NPCC Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with, in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 20 working days of the date of this response. The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision, and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

If, after lodging a complaint with NPCC, you are still unhappy with the outcome, you may make an application to the Information Commissioner at the Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.