

Mr George Counsell

[Ref: CO/FOI/17/13]

Dear Mr Counsell

I am writing with reference to your request for information regarding search and recovery of human remains dated May 1 2013, made under section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act. In which you requested;

Any guidance or manuals you provide to the police and other forensic practitioners for the search and recovery of human remains.

Please see our response below

We have split your request into two components - the search for human remains and the subsequent recovery of human remains.

SEARCH FOR HUMAN REMAINS

1. ACPO Manual of Guidance for Police Search Advisors (PoISA) 2012 Volume 2 (attached). This manual forms the basis for Police Missing Persons Search training and is delivered by the Police National Search Centre on the initial PoISA training course.

2. Grampian Police - Missing Persons - Understanding / Planning / Responding. Also known as the 'Grampian Statistics' this is an academically underpinned database used as a tool to inform search strategies depending on the characteristics of the missing person.

http://www.searchresearch.org.uk/downloads/ukmpbs/GGIbb_missing_person_report.pdf

3. ACPO Police Dogs Manual of Guidance 2011 - reference made within this document to the use of Victim Detection Dogs used in the search for human remains.

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/uniformed/2011/201103UOPDogsMoG1.1.pdf>

4. CATCHEM database - a statistical database used as a tool to inform search strategies in cases of child abduction / murder. This database is maintained and owned by SOCA. Requests to access the database should be made directly to SOCA (Missing Persons) however this information maybe exempted from release under Section 31 (a) and (b) of the Freedom of Information Act.

RECOVERY OF HUMAN REMAINS

1. Disaster Victim Guidance - following the 2004 Tsunami this document was produced by Interpol and forms the basis of police training in disaster victim recovery and identification to a common standard worldwide.

http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/uniformed/2011/20110324%20UOBA%20Guidance%20on%20Disaster%20Victim%20Identification_2011.pdf

2. Forensic recovery of human remains - All College of Policing crime scene/ forensic recovery training is provided by LGC Forensics Ltd, a privately owned company who provide their own training materials. The College does not supply any manuals or documents (other than those owned by LGC Forensics Ltd) to students. For a copy of the manuals/documents used we would suggest you make a request to LGC Forensics Ltd directly

<http://www.lgcgroup.com/contact-us/#>

Your right to complain

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will investigate the matter and endeavour to reply within 20 working days. You should write to:

C/O FOI Team
College of Policing
1 Fry Building,
2, Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

E-mail: FOI.InternalReviews@college.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by the College. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Further information about the College is routinely published on our website at www.college.police.uk or through our publication scheme. If you require any further assistance in connection with this request please contact us at our address above.

Yours sincerely,

College of Policing FOI Team
FOI@college.pnn.police.uk

Registered address: College of Policing, Leamington Road, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3EN
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