



**Date:** 30 May 2018  
**Our Reference:** FOIA-2018-0031  
**Your Reference:** N/A

(Via e-request-482472-d9b97e9f@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Mr Newell

## **RE: Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request**

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or 'FoIA 2000') request dated 3 May 2018 in which you asked for the following information:

I would like access to the training guide for officers who are training for Operational Support Unit/Group/ Territorial Support Unit/Group, specifically modules A2 and B2.

## **Decision**

Having conducted careful searches for information relevant to your request, I can confirm that there is information held and I have disclosed this in the attached documents. However, due to the nature of some of the information contained within the materials held, the following exemptions contained within the FoIA 2000 were engaged:

### **Section 31 (1) (a) and (b) law enforcement**

### **Section 38 (1) (b) health and safety**

Section 31 provides

'(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders'

I consider that the disclosure of the redacted information is very likely to prejudice the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. It is highly likely it would undermine the effectiveness of police tactics and empower offenders with information which could enable them to successfully defeat such tactics and potentially avoid apprehension. I acknowledge that there is a clear public interest in making appropriate information available to the public in order to promote openness, transparency and to provide reassurance to the public, in particular, in terms of how the police respond to public order incidents. However, disclosure of any information which is likely to have a real and adverse effect on the effectiveness of law enforcement cannot be said to be in the public interest. As such, the information that engages section 31 has been redacted in the disclosed documents.

Section 38 provides –

‘(1) Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to:

(b) endanger the safety of any individual.’

There is a clear public interest in making appropriate information available to the public, however it is the view of the College that disclosure of the redacted information has the very likely potential to place law enforcement personnel and members of the public at risk of harm. It is very likely that the information could be used by offenders to adopt counter-measures to avoid apprehension and arrest and adversely affect the ability of the police to bring law enforcement operations to a safe conclusion. This would in turn endanger the safety of police officers, as well as anybody in close proximity to what would likely be an already volatile situation. As such, the information that engages section 38 has been redacted in the disclosed documents.

It is important to note that these materials are protected by copyright and you must therefore, have due regard to the College’s intellectual property rights. No part of these publications may be reproduced, modified, amended, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the prior written permission of the College or its representative.

I trust this letter answers your questions. Your rights are provided in **Appendix A**.

Yours sincerely,

**Sarah Lawrence**

**Legal Services**

**College of Policing**

Email: [FOI@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FOI@college.pnn.police.uk)

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

## **Appendix A**

### **Rights**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or our decision made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the Act) regarding access to information you have a right to request an internal review by the College of Policing.

Internal review requests should be made in writing, within **forty (40) working days** from the date of the refusal notice and should be addressed to: FOI team, Central House, Beckwith Knowle, Otley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UF or via email: [FOI@college.pnn.police.uk](mailto:FOI@college.pnn.police.uk)

The College of Policing will aim to respond to your request for internal review within **20 working days**.

#### **The Information Commissioner**

If, after lodging a review request you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) 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 you can write to the ICO:

#### **Information Commissioner's Office**

**Wycliffe House**

**Water Lane**

**Wilmslow**

**Cheshire**

**SK9 5AF**

**Phone: +44 (0)1625 545 700**