



**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Our Reference:** FOIA-2020-082

## **RE: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000**

I write in response to your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) request dated **06/07/2020**, in which you requested:

- The nationally set ARV Role profile
- The training curriculum for the ARV Role

On **09/07/2020** after a discussion about refusing a request under section 12, you refined your request to:

- Only the nationally set ARV Role Profile.

### **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. If a public authority decides that the information should not be disclosed because an exemption applies, it must, under section 17(1) cite the appropriate section or exemption of the Act and provide an explanation for relying upon it.

Under section 1(1), I can confirm the College **holds information** within the scope of your request.

### **Nationally set ARV Role Profile**

I can confirm the ARV Role Profile is held by the College. This has been provided to you in the attachment 'Disclosure document 1'. An exemption under section 31(1) – Law Enforcement has been applied to parts of the disclosure document, allowing some of its content to be redacted. This has been clearly stated at the top of the attachment.

Please find an explanation of our decision to apply section 31 below; your rights are provided at the bottom of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

**Kate Kaufman | Legal Researcher**

**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)

### **Section 31(1)(a) – Law Enforcement**

As a publicly funded body and from an ethical perspective, the College accepts it has a duty to make appropriate information available to the public wherever possible. We appreciate that there is a public interest in the nature of the ARV role, and wherever possible, in order to better inform the public about the work that we do, we aim to publish certain guidance documents. Additionally, we appreciate that spending of public money and a public authority's ability to generate income, are matters of strong public interest.

However, the College must also consider the wider impact of disclosing specific detail about armed response vehicles. By the very nature of our work, the disclosure of the information requested carries the potential risk of identifying specific tactical capabilities of armed officers, and therefore tactical limitations with some armed policing role profiles. The possible disclosure of law enforcement tactics may have a negative impact on law enforcement operations, both in the UK and abroad. This in turn could increase the risk to the safety of the public and indeed law enforcement. Disclosure could hinder the effective prevention and detection of crime as it has the potential to reveal specific tactics the police use.

Disclosure of information that undermines the operational integrity of law enforcement capabilities is highly likely to have an adverse impact on public safety and a negative effect on law enforcement generally. This risk to public safety cannot be said to be in the public interest.

As stated above, the public interest test is a consideration of whether the community benefit of possession of the information outweighs the potential harm of releasing that information. It is not an evaluation of what interests the public. On weighing up the competing interests, I consider that the public interest test favours redacting the tactical detail from Disclosure document 1.

## **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**

**“Authorised firearms officer”**

An authorised firearms officer (AFO) is a police officer who has been selected, trained, accredited and authorised by their chief officer to carry a firearm operationally. There is a range of specialist roles for which AFOs receive specific tactical training and accreditation.

(APP Armed Policing> Issue and Carriage of Firearms> 2 AFO)

An AFO must be confirmed in the rank of constable, or equivalent agency rank or grade, not being a student officer or special constable. (Given the unique nature of their primary protective security guarding role and their predominantly armed profile, this requirement does not apply to the Civil Nuclear Constabulary and Ministry of Defence Police).

An AFO will be trained in at least one weapon system and tactics commensurate with their role, whether this is in force, or broader areas of operation.

<b>AFO Role Profile</b>	
Training standards	<p>NPFTC compliance in the following modules:</p> <p><u>A1 Knowledge of Law, Procedure and Dealing with People</u>                      A1.1 Knowledge of law, procedure and dealing with people                      A1.2 Deals with vulnerable persons</p> <p><u>A2 Knowledge of Roles</u>                      A2.1 Knowledge of roles</p> <p><u>A3 Post Deployment Considerations</u>                      A3.1 Post deployment considerations</p> <p><u>A4 Issue, Carriage and Deployment with Firearms</u>                      A4.1 Issue, carriage and deployment</p> <p><u>B1 Carries, Handles and Shoots a Police Firearm</u>                      B1.1 Firearms, ammunition and ballistic protection characteristics and capabilities                      B1.2 Handles / shoots a police firearm                      B1.3 Cleans police weapons                      B1.4 Uses weapon retention techniques                      B1.5 Tactical equipment</p> <p><u>B2 Participates in Incidents involving Firearms</u>                      B2.1 Aims and basic principles of tactics                      B2.2 Initial response to incidents involving firearms                      B2.3 Tactical options</p>

## B2.4 Actions

### D1 Participates in Armed Containment

D1.1 Participates in armed containment

### D3 Deals with Subjects in Vehicles

D3.1 Deals with stationary vehicles (excluding LO5)

### D2 Deals with Subjects on Foot

D2.1 Subjects who are on foot

### D4 Deal with Subjects in Buildings and other Structures

### D5 Conducts Armed Searches in the Open

### D13 Provides First Aid

D13.1 Provides first aid (standard)

### J1 Guidance and Roles

J1.1 Authorised professional practice

J1.2 Roles and responsibilities

J1.3 National decision model

### J2 Taser Use and Safe Handling

J2.1 Taser X26 characteristics and component parts

J2.2 Taser X26 cartridges, characteristics and handling  
or

J2.3 Taser X2 characteristics and component parts

J2.4 Taser smart cartridges, characteristics and handling

### J3 Dealing with Vulnerable People

J3.1 Dealing with Vulnerable People (common content with A1.2)

### J4 Operational and Tactical Skills

J4.1 Carries Taser

J4.2 Applying the NDM

J4.3 Deals with people

J4.4 Weapon retention (common content with B1.4)

### J5 Post deployment

J5.1 Post deployment

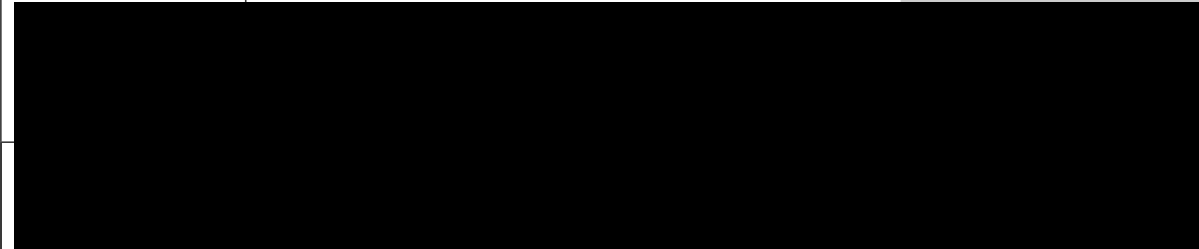
	Officer safety training, in accordance the NPCC Personal Safety Manual
Additional skills - team capability	NA
APSTRA based additional skills	<p><u>B1 Carries, Handles and Shoots a Police Firearm</u>                      B1.2 Handles / shoots a police firearm (carbine, either high velocity (HV) or low velocity (LV))</p> <p><u>D3 Deals with Subjects in Vehicles</u>                      [REDACTED]</p> <p><u>D5 Conducts Armed Searches in the Open</u>                      [REDACTED]</p> <p><u>D4 Deal with Subjects in Buildings and other Structures</u>                      [REDACTED]</p>
Health and fitness standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medical assessments as detailed within the NPFTC introduction</li> <li>• annual hearing test, as detailed within the NPFTC introduction, as a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive noise exemption arrangements</li> <li>• annual job related fitness test (level – 7.6)</li> </ul>
Vetting levels	Minimum: RV
National resource standard	<p>AFO capabilities as listed above and the following work equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full personal protective equipment (PPE)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ body armour</li> <li>○ officer safety equipment (as per force policy)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• personal airwave set</li> <li>• handgun or carbine (ammunition- operational load)</li> <li>• Conducted energy device (CED) readily available</li> </ul>
[REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> </ul>
[REDACTED]	

**Authorised firearms officer (CT)**

Some AFOs receive additional training to fulfil the strategic requirement to protect the public from terrorist threats [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They are known as AFO(CT).

<b>Authorised firearms officer (CT) Role profile</b>	
Training standards	<p>NPFTC compliance as an AFO and in the following <u>additional</u> modules:</p> <p><u>B1 Carries, Handles and Shoots a Police Firearm</u>                      B1.2 Handles / shoots a police firearm (carbine)</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><u>D1 Participates in Armed Containment</u>                      [REDACTED]</p> <p><u>Deals with Subjects in Vehicles</u>                      D3.1 Deals with stationary vehicles (LO 5)                      D3.3 Takes part in vehicle check points                      [REDACTED]</p> <p><u>D5 Conducts Armed Searches in the Open</u>                      D5.1 Conducts area searches                      [REDACTED]</p> <p>D5.4 Conducts open country searches</p>
Additional skills - team capability	NA
APSTRA based additional skills	NA
Health and fitness standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medical assessments as detailed within the NPFTC introduction</li> <li>• annual hearing test, as detailed within the NPFTC introduction, as a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive noise exemption arrangements</li> <li>• annual job related fitness test (level – 7.6)</li> </ul>
Vetting levels	Minimum: RV
National resource standard	<p>AFO (CT) capabilities as listed above and the following work equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full personal protective equipment (PPE)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ body armour</li> <li>○ officer safety equipment (as per force policy)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• personal airwave set</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• carbine (ammunition- operational load)</li><li>• Conducted energy device (CED) readily available</li></ul>
	

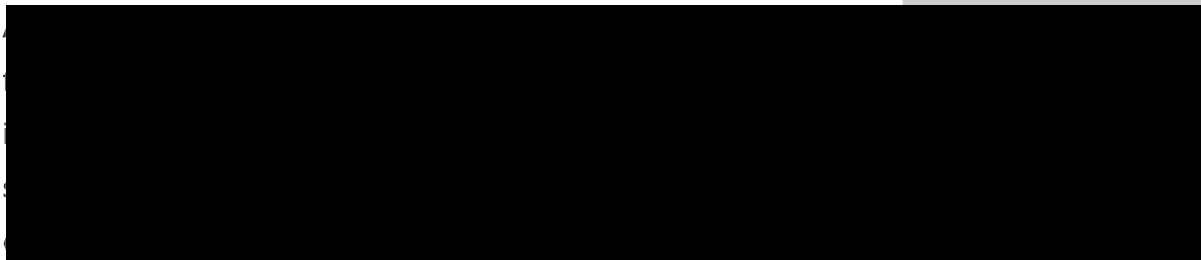


**“Armed response vehicle officer”**

Armed response vehicle (ARV) is the term used to define a patrolling vehicle which contains firearms and less lethal options. The vehicle is crewed by at least two police officers suitably trained in the use of the weapons and equipment carried in the vehicle. These officers may patrol overtly armed, or the weapons may be retained in a secure cabinet in the vehicle. Ideally, at least two of the officers should be qualified to drive the vehicle.

The purpose of an ARV is to provide an immediate armed response to appropriate incidents with the ability to deploy firearms or less lethal options where justified.

It is important that ARVs are deployed to spontaneous incidents requiring a firearms response in sufficient numbers to effectively respond to the threat.



<b>ARV Role Profile</b>	
Training standards	<p>NPFTC compliance as an AFO and in the following <u>additional</u> modules:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>B1 Carries, Handles and Shoots a Police Firearm</u> B1.2 Handles / shoots a police firearm (carbine)</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 500px; height: 60px; margin: 10px 0;"></div> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>D1 Participates in Armed Containment</u></p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 250px; height: 15px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>D2 Deals with Subjects on Foot</u> D2.2 Deploying from a vehicle</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>D3 Deals with Subjects in Vehicles</u> D3.1 Deals with stationary vehicles (LO 5) D3.2 Stops moving vehicles D3.3 Takes part in vehicle check points</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 400px; height: 20px; margin: 10px 0;"></div> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><u>D4 Deal with Subjects in Buildings and other Structures</u></p>

	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><u>D5 Conducts Armed Searches in the Open</u>  D5.1 Conducts area searches  [REDACTED]  D5.4 Conducts open country searches</p> <p><u>E1 Dispatches Animals</u>  E1.1 Dispatches animals</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<p>Additional skills - team capability</p>	<p>To be provided as part of each individual ARV capability:</p> <p><u>D11 Uses L104 launcher</u>  D11.1 Uses L104 launcher</p> <p><u>G3 Uses Forcible Entry Equipment</u>  G3.1 Building construction  G3.2 Door types  G3.3 Window types  G3.4 PPE  G3.5 Uses forcible entry equipment</p>
<p>[REDACTED]</p>	
<p>Health and fitness standards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medical assessments as detailed within the NPFTC introduction</li> <li>• annual hearing test, as detailed within the NPFTC introduction, as a requirement of the Health and Safety Executive noise exemption arrangements</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• annual job related fitness test (level – 9.4)</li> </ul>
Vetting levels	Minimum: RV
National resource standard	<p>Each ARV officer will deploy with a range of personal equipment in order to deliver all ARV capabilities as listed above. The standard resources, weapons, munitions and equipment required to provide the individual ARV capability are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• full personal protective equipment (PPE)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ body armour</li> <li>○ ballistic helmet</li> <li>○ officer safety equipment (as per force policy)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• personal airwave set</li> <li>• personal body worn video</li> <li>• minimum of two ARV trained officers</li> <li>• one appropriate vehicle</li> <li>• capability to provide each officer with a high velocity (HV) carbine [REDACTED]</li> <li>• [REDACTED] handgun (ammunition- operational load) and CED</li> <li>• one L104 launcher per vehicle</li> <li>• portable ballistic protection [REDACTED]</li> <li>• forcible entry equipment</li> <li>• first aid equipment</li> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> <li>• high-powered torch</li> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> </ul>
Resources available on specific request	NA
APSTRA based additional capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• capability to provide each officer with a 9mm carbine (ammunition-operational load)</li> </ul>