



**Date: 31 July 2020**

**Our Reference: FOIA-2020-062**

## **RE: Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("FOIA 2000")**

I am writing regarding your email dated 08 June 2020 in which you requested information regarding our international training as follows:

- This College's website notes that it provides training to law enforcement agencies in the United States. <https://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Learning/International-Academy/Pages/International-FAQ.aspx>. Please provide a list of US law enforcement agencies the College has provided training to since 2010.

Following a request for clarification, and confirmation that the College was not established until 2012, your request was redefined as follows:

- Please provide a list of any training provided by the College to organisations or individuals in the United States from 2012 (College inception) onwards.

## **Decision**

I can confirm that the College of Policing holds information relevant to your request.

When a request for information is made under 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.

It is important to note that a freedom of information request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed are considered suitable for open publication, that is, once access to information is granted to one person under the legislation, it is then considered public information and must be communicated to any individual should a request be received.

With this in mind we are able to provide you with the following information. Training provided by the College to organisations or individuals in the United States from 2012 (College inception) onwards is listed below, all of this training was delivered in the UK.

- 12/07/2014: Senior Leadership Seminar - New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police
- 07/12/2015: Senior Leadership Seminar - New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police
- 09/07/2016: Senior Leadership Seminar - New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police
- 10/07/2017: Senior Leadership Seminar - New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police

### **Section 23(5) – Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters**

#### **Section 24(2) – National security**

Additionally, the College of Policing can neither confirm nor deny whether the above information represents all the information held that would meet the terms of your request, as the duty to comply with section 1(1)(a) of the FoIA 2000 does not apply by virtue of section 23(5) and section 24(2). Under s23(5) the duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3). This is an absolute exemption and a public interest test is not required.

Section 24(2) is a qualified exemption and as such there is a requirement to evidence any harm in confirming or denying that any other information is held as well as considering the public interest. We appreciate the importance of the public being informed on how public money is being spent and how public authorities conduct their activities and generate their income. Confirming whether any other information regarding the provision of training to international states is held would increase public confidence and allow for better informed public debate.

However, as outlined earlier in this letter, disclosure under the FoIA 2000 is a disclosure to the world at large. Therefore, disclosure of the information, if held, runs the risk of providing criminals with information, that when used on its own or with other information is likely to have an undesirable effect on the national security of the states concerned and the UK. This would in turn, have an impact on the ability of these states and the UK to protect itself from criminality and increases the risk to the safety of its citizens. It is also likely to have an adverse effect on law enforcement operations, both in the UK and abroad. Confirming or denying whether any other information is held would have the effect of making security measures in international states less effective since it may highlight individual vulnerabilities in those states. It would also have the effect of making

security measures in the UK less effective as international police forces may be reluctant to share information and intelligence in order to combat threats from criminals.

To the extent that section 24(2) applies, the College of Policing has determined that in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny outweighs the public interest in confirming whether or not any other information is held. I can therefore neither confirm nor deny whether any other information relevant to your request is held.

Your rights are provided at **Appendix A**.

Yours sincerely,

**Abi Robertson | Legal Services Manager**  
**Information Management and Legal Team**  
**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**