



Ministry
of Defence

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Reference: FOI2017/10988

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email to: [REDACTED]

1 December 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 31 October 2017 requesting the following information:

- "1. How many Sexual Offence Trained ('SOIT') Service Police Officers are available to investigate offences at a given time?"*
- 2. What training are SOIT Service Police Officers required to undergo?"*
- 3. What are the core training and policy documents to which SOIT Service Police Officers must have regards when conducting investigations?"*

We are treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence holds information within the scope of your request.

I can advise you that there are 111 Sexual Offence Trained ('SOIT') Service Police Officers available to investigate offences at a given time across the three Services

For training of SOIT Service Police Officers, the Royal Air Force Police (RAFP) and Royal Military Police (RMP) conduct a combined Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) and SOIT course either with or endorsed by the Metropolitan Police. All Royal Navy Police (RNP) personnel are trained to deal with initial sexual offence allegations until a Sexual Offences Liaison Officer (SOLO) can take over. This training is provided by the Defence School of Policing and Guarding on the Volume Crime Investigations Course (VCIC) and Serious Crime Investigations Course (SCIC). All personnel attend VCIC and all Regulating Petty Officers (RPO) attend the SCIC.

Regarding the core training and policy documents which SOIT Service Police Officers must have when conducting investigations, the external course providers provide the training materials and guidance for SOIT and ABE practitioners.

Additionally, the three Services provide the following policy documents:

- Achieving Best Evidence in Criminal Proceedings (Ministry of Justice 2011).
- Air Publication 1722, Part 3 Chapter 3 Section 3.
- Armed Forces Act 2006.
- Briefing Note on First Response to Rape (ACPO 2009).
- Core Investigative Doctrine (CID).
- Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine Website – Recommendations for the collection of forensic specimens from complainants and suspects.
- Guidance on Investigating and Prosecuting Rape (NPIA 2010).

- Investigative Interviewing (College of Policing Direction).
 - Military Police Investigative Doctrine 21
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- NPCC Advice on the Structure of Visually Recorded Witness Interviews (3rd Ed 2016).
 - Royal Navy Police SIB Unit Technical Instruction 09 – ABE Interviewing (this is unit specific guidance for specially trained officers only).
 - Service Police Codes of Practice.
 - Sexual Offences Aide Memoire and Aide Memoire Cards.
 - Sexual Offences Log
 - The ACPO Rape Manual

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIOFOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence People Secretariat FOI