



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2019/12657
RFI:383/19

Date: 28 November 2019

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: MEDICAL STANDARDS.

We refer to your email dated 5 November 2019 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the same date.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

“Hello, I would like to request some information in relation to the medical standards that are in place.

Firstly I would like to know why a candidate must have good colour vision and how suffering from Colour Deficiency will have a detrimental effect on a persons ability to perform the role of a Authorised Firearms Officer.

Secondly, I would like to know why the Ministry Of Defence Police are asking for the 3rd Edition City University Colour test to be carried out when all other Home Office forces ask for the 2nd Edition and most importantly as to why you have elected to use a test that is not validated.”

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

The MDP mirror the College of Policing medical standards for Authorised Firearms Officers (AFO). The recommended overarching national policy on colour vision was circulated by the National Police Chief’s Council (NPCC) on 12 March 2018. This states that the two principle

points that support the AFO colour vision standards are based on “the ability to identify a subject based on a description, of which colour could be a significant factor, particularly where this may lead to pre-emptive use of force or critical shot. The ability to operate firearms with a “red dot” sight system. Both points are critical to the lawful and proportionate use of force.

The NPCC circular stated that some forces had identified that the 2nd edition City test is no longer commercially available. The standards were updated with details for the 3rd Edition test and Forces that already have access to the 2nd edition test could continue to use it. The MDP do not have direct access to colour vision testing. Where potential new recruits and incumbent officers are unable to access the City test (or the Farnsworth test) in the high street it is recommended that they contact the nearest university with a vision department. The universities used to date all have the 3rd edition test available.

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 CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.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

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office