



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2021/02869

RFI: 085/21

Date: 7 April 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: KNEE PROTECTION.

We refer to your email dated 15 March 2021 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:

Thank you for your quick reply, could I please clarify the following points?

- 1. What is the difference in training and operational duties that the Tactical Firearms officers within the MOD Police do/carry out, that normal operational PC's don't? In particular, the difference that allows the Tactical Firearms unit to have knee protection written into the scale of issue?**
- 2. What evidence is needed to get the knee protection added to the operational PC's scale of issue and who collates this information?**
- 3. Are operational PC's on the ground less important than the Tactical firearms unit?**
- 4. Why are Firearms Instructors wearing knee protection?**
- 5. Do the Tactical Firearms Unit do the same tactics as operational PC's ?**
- 6. When you stated that you need (as an officer) to obtain an OH report to get knee protection, if the officer already has this, what are the next steps to obtain the knee protection? What is considered when you say it will be recorded and considered?**

- 7. Does this request for knee protection go through your line of command from PC with an OH report to SGT to Inspector?**
- 8. Where is the procedure to apply for knee protection written down for PC's , SGT's to view?**
- 9. Can you quote where (on the scale of issue) is the Tactical Firearms officers knee protection?**

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

- 1. What is the difference in training and operational duties that the Tactical Firearms officers within the MOD Police do/carry out, that normal operational PC's don't? In particular, the difference that allows the Tactical Firearms unit to have knee protection written into the scale of issue?**

This information has been exempted from release under S31(1) Law Enforcement. Although there is a presumption of release under FOI for reasons of transparency and openness, I have conducted a Public Interest Test and there is a stronger argument that favours withholding this information. The effective delivery of operational law enforcement takes priority and is at the forefront of the Ministry of Defence Police's role to ensure the prevention and detection of crime is carried out and the effective apprehension or prosecution of offenders is maintained. Information will not be disclosed into the public domain that can create any kind of tactical vulnerability for MDP officers in the pursuit of their day to day duties.

- 2. What evidence is needed to get the knee protection added to the operational PC's scale of issue and who collates this information?**

To add any item to an officers Scale of Issue requires an approved and funded Business Case staffed through HQ Ops.

- 3. Are operational PC's on the ground less important than the Tactical firearms unit?**

No information held

- 4. Why are Firearms Instructors wearing knee protection?**

No information held.

- 5. Do the Tactical Firearms Unit do the same tactics as operational PC's ?**

No - Tactical Firearms Unit officers are trained in additional and advanced techniques and tactics.

- 6. When you stated that you need (as an officer) to obtain an OH report to get knee protection, if the officer already has this, what are the next steps to obtain the knee protection? What is considered when you say it will be recorded and considered?**

An officer should seek advice and guidance through their chain of command and the application and supporting rationale will be considered.

7. Does this request for knee protection go through your line of command from PC with an OH report to SGT to Inspector?

All requests for variations, dispensations or additional provisions of equipment are through the chain of command.

8. Where is the procedure to apply for knee protection written down for PC's , SGT's to view?

No information held

9. Can you quote where (on the scale of issue) is the Tactical Firearms officers knee protection?'

There is no current Scale of Issue for knee protection other than for those officers undertaking search duties.

In accordance with Section 16 (Advice and Assistance), it may be helpful to note that a public authority does not have to answer questions if this would mean creating new information or giving an opinion or judgment that is not already recorded.

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