



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

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Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2021/07288

RFI: 204/21

Date: 5 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: POLICE TRAINING.

We refer to your email dated 6 July 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:

Please list all training and learning and development that you were scheduled to ordinarily deliver to police officers and staff that were completely cancelled as a result of the guidelines regarding safe working during the COVID-19 pandemic (please include all courses i.e. from recruit training to detective training)

From this list of courses please list those that continued, but were moved to an online delivery as a result of the guidelines regarding safe working during the COVID-19 pandemic (please include all courses i.e. from recruit training to detective training)

Please list or indicate which of the above courses were what mandatory (including refreshers) courses, that were cancelled i.e. defensive tactics training, police fitness tests, firearms training

Approximately how many police staff does this affect?

Approximately how many police officers does this affect?

For cancelled mandatory courses, what was the organisations response to certification i.e. extended, allowed to expire etc.

Did you use any alternate approach to training and learning and development beyond moving online?

If, so, what approach was used?

What online technology did you use to deliver online training and learning and development i.e. MS Teams, Zoom

Did your organisation have the requisite capability to deliver alternate methods of training and learning and development in place prior to the pandemic?

If not, is it now in place?

In response, did your organisation increase their use of existing police eLearning i.e. Kalidus, NCalt

What backlog of police training, learning and development has been created as a result of cancelled courses?

How long do you anticipate it will take for you to complete the backlog of training identified?

Where there any other consequences on other areas of the organisation as a result of the impact on police training, learning and development? i.e. postponed recruitment for example.

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.

Please list all training and learning and development that you were scheduled to ordinarily deliver to police officers and staff that were completely cancelled as a result of the guidelines regarding safe working during the COVID-19 pandemic (please include all courses i.e. from recruit training to detective training)

Training that was delivered prior to the COVID 19 Pandemic was paused as opposed to cancelled as advised by the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) and the College of Policing.

From this list of courses please list those that continued, but were moved to an online delivery as a result of the guidelines regarding safe working during the COVID-19 pandemic (please include all courses i.e. from recruit training to detective training)

The Ministry of Defence Police did not fully move courses to online digital delivery. E-learning/MS teams and Skype supported the Recruit Training Programme if officers had to self-isolate.

Please list or indicate which of the above courses were what mandatory (including refreshers) courses, that were cancelled i.e. defensive tactics training, police fitness tests, firearms training

Training was paused (see above) and qualifications were extended.

Approximately how many police staff does this affect?

Mandatory training for civilian staff is completed online through MOD provided resources such as Civil Service Learning.

Approximately how many police officers does this affect?

1221 Police officers had their Personal Safety Training qualification extended
1320 Police Officers had their Multi Stage Fitness Test qualification extended

For cancelled mandatory courses, what was the organisations response to certification i.e. extended, allowed to expire etc.

Courses were paused not cancelled and qualification extended.

Did you use any alternate approach to training and learning and development beyond moving online?

Yes

If, so, what approach was used?

The number of students on some courses was reduced. The number of students attending the Standard response driving training was reduced from three to two students. This was as a contingency due to close contact within vehicles, in addition to PPE. The Ministry of Defence Police delivered Scottish Recruit training in Scotland at an alternative location which was non-residential. Personal Safety training used video to support learning and to reduce close contact time with students, evidencing competence was another method used in Personal Safety Training to reduce close proximity in practical scenarios.

What online technology did you use to deliver online training and learning and development i.e. MS Teams, Zoom

MS Teams

Did your organisation have the requisite capability to deliver alternate methods of training and learning and development in place prior to the pandemic?

No

If not, is it now in place?

Yes.

In response, did your organisation increase their use of existing police eLearning i.e. Kalidus, NCalt

No

What backlog of police training, learning and development has been created as a result of cancelled courses?

There is no identified backlog of training as this was managed as part of the NPCC extension to qualification process.

How long do you anticipate it will take for you to complete the backlog of training identified?

N/A

Where there any other consequences on other areas of the organisation as a result of the impact on police training, learning and development? i.e. postponed recruitment for example.

No

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