



# Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager  
Ministry of Defence Police  
Palmer Pavilion,  
Building 666,  
RAF Wyton, Huntingdon,  
Cambs, PE28 2EA

Telephone: +44 (0)1371 85 [REDACTED]

E-mail: [MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk](mailto:MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk)

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2022/06493

RFI: 134/22

Date: 23 June 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: VICTIMS  
WITH ENGLISH AS SECOND LANGUAGE.**

We refer to your email dated 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

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:

**1. Classification**

**1.1 Do you classify victims with limited or no English speaking, reading and/or writing skills, and other communication barriers as 'vulnerable' under the Vulnerability Assessment Framework?**

**1.2 If not, has your police force assessed whether having limited or no English skills is a form of vulnerability? (a) If so, what form did that assessment take and what was its outcome; or (b) If not, why not?**

**2. Training**

**2.1 How many police officers were employed by your force between 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021? This includes police officers of all ranks from frontline to management, including on duty and off duty officers.**

**2.2 Please identify what (if any) mandatory training courses the aforementioned police officers employed between 2020-2021 were required to attend on the issue of victims and witnesses with communication barriers<sup>1</sup>. If no such mandatory training courses are in place, why not?**

**If mandatory training courses are in place:**

**2.3 Please specify the contents of the mandatory training courses on the issue of victims and witnesses with communication barriers.**

**2.4 Please confirm whether the mandatory training courses include:**

**(a) The legal definition of the term 'vulnerable';**

- (b) Communication barrier indicators such as a lack of English language or disabilities;**
- (c) The duty of police officers to identify victims'/witnesses' communication barriers;**
- (d) The duty of police officers to take reasonable steps to ensure that the vulnerable victims and witnesses with communication barriers receive the same service as those without such vulnerabilities, such as securing an interpreter (foreign language/ sign language);**
- (e) The duty of police officers to take reasonable steps to ensure that the Victims' Code is applied in the same way to victims with communication barriers (this includes the right to receive updates, the right to provide a statement, the right to seek a review of a decision to take no further action);**
- (f) The mechanisms in place in your police force to assist vulnerable witnesses and victims with communication barriers to give evidence in support of an investigation (such as providing guidance on Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interviews, special measures at court etc.); and**
- (g) The duty of police officers to assess victims for Victim Support Services and to make such referrals where deemed suitable.**

**2.5 Please confirm how many police officers employed by your force (see question 2.1 above) attended and studied the mandatory training courses between 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021.**

**2.6 Please confirm the duration and mode (i.e. lecture/e-learning) of the mandatory training courses.**

**2.7 Please confirm whether the police officers were required to attend Continuing Professional Development sessions on vulnerable witnesses with communication barriers, or whether the mandatory courses were limited to one session only.**

**2.8 Please confirm how police officers' attendance and study of the mandatory course were monitored.**

**2.9 Please confirm how the police officers' understanding and competence in this course was examined.**

**1 Communication barriers' is not an exhaustive term but commonly will include anyone with limited or no English skills, or disabilities such as deaf or deaf-mute individuals.**

**2.10 If police officers were examined on this course, please confirm how many police officers successfully passed it. If police officers were not examined on this course – why not?**

### **3. Engagement with vulnerable victims of crime**

**3.1 Does the police force record the number of victims of crime with English as a second language? If yes, how many such victims were recorded between 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021?**

**3.2 Does the police force record the first and other languages of victims with communication barriers at every point of contact? If yes, please provide this data.**

**3.3 Please confirm whether written communications are provided to such victims in easy read or pictorial formats.**

### **4. Professional Interpretation and Translation services**

**4.1 Does the police force organise 'competent' and 'accredited' interpreters for interviews and translation of key documents for victims with communication barriers? If yes, how many interpreters were organised for such victims between 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021?**

**4.2 Please provide all procedures for officers and staff on how to access language assistance services under different circumstances, including when receiving and responding to requests for assistance, making enforcement stops, conducting field investigations and witness interviews, conducting custodial interrogations and performing other law enforcement operations.**

**4.3 Please confirm the financial budget/funding allocated by the police force for providing the access to professional interpretation, translation services and/or any other tailored support.**

**4.4 Does the police force have access to a set of volunteers that might enhance language support wherever possible?**

**5. Ancillary**

**5.1 If you are not able to answer any question in this FOI request, why not?**

**5.2 If you are not able to answer any question, does the data exist for that question?**

**5.3 If the data does not exist, why not?**

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. Classification**

**1.1 Do you classify victims with limited or no English speaking, reading and/or writing skills, and other communication barriers as 'vulnerable' under the Vulnerability Assessment Framework?**

No information held

**1.2 If not, has your police force assessed whether having limited or no English skills is a form of vulnerability? (a) If so, what form did that assessment take and what was its outcome; or (b) If not, why not?**

No information held

## **2. Training**

**2.1 How many police officers were employed by your force between 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021? This includes police officers of all ranks from frontline to management, including on duty and off duty officers.**

The two strength figures at those periods have been taken an average is 2688.3

**2.2 Please identify what (if any) mandatory training courses the aforementioned police officers employed between 2020-2021 were required to attend on the issue of victims and witnesses with communication barriers<sup>1</sup>. If no such mandatory training courses are in place, why not?**

None

Please note that only recorded information can be released in a Freedom of Information request.

**If mandatory training courses are in place:**

**2.3 Please specify the contents of the mandatory training courses on the issue of victims and witnesses with communication barriers.**

N/A

**2.4 Please confirm whether the mandatory training courses include:**

**(a) The legal definition of the term 'vulnerable';**

**(b) Communication barrier indicators such as a lack of English language or disabilities;**

- (c) The duty of police officers to identify victims'/witnesses' communication barriers;**
- (d) The duty of police officers to take reasonable steps to ensure that the vulnerable victims and witnesses with communication barriers receive the same service as those without such vulnerabilities, such as securing an interpreter (foreign language/ sign language);**
- (e) The duty of police officers to take reasonable steps to ensure that the Victims' Code is applied in the same way to victims with communication barriers (this includes the right to receive updates, the right to provide a statement, the right to seek a review of a decision to take no further action);**
- (f) The mechanisms in place in your police force to assist vulnerable witnesses and victims with communication barriers to give evidence in support of an investigation (such as providing guidance on Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interviews, special measures at court etc.); and**
- (g) The duty of police officers to assess victims for Victim Support Services and to make such referrals where deemed suitable.**

N/A As no specific training is available.

**2.5 Please confirm how many police officers employed by your force (see question 2.1 above) attended and studied the mandatory training courses between 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021.**

N/A

**2.6 Please confirm the duration and mode (i.e. lecture/e-learning) of the mandatory training courses.**

N/A

**2.7 Please confirm whether the police officers were required to attend Continuing Professional Development sessions on vulnerable witnesses with communication barriers, or whether the mandatory courses were limited to one session only.**

N/A

**2.8 Please confirm how police officers' attendance and study of the mandatory course were monitored.**

N/A

**2.9 Please confirm how the police officers' understanding and competence in this course was examined.**

N/A

**2.10 If police officers were examined on this course, please confirm how many police officers successfully passed it. If police officers were not examined on this course – why not?**

N/A

**3. Engagement with vulnerable victims of crime**

**3.1 Does the police force record the number of victims of crime with English as a second language? If yes, how many such victims were recorded between 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021?**

No information held

**3.2 Does the police force record the first and other languages of victims with communication barriers at every point of contact? If yes, please provide this data.**

No information held

**3.3 Please confirm whether written communications are provided to such victims in easy read or pictorial formats.**

No information held

#### **4. Professional Interpretation and Translation services**

**4.1 Does the police force organise 'competent' and 'accredited' interpreters for interviews and translation of key documents for victims with communication barriers? If yes, how many interpreters were organised for such victims between 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2021?**

No information held

**4.2 Please provide all procedures for officers and staff on how to access language assistance services under different circumstances, including when receiving and responding to requests for assistance, making enforcement stops, conducting field investigations and witness interviews, conducting custodial interrogations and performing other law enforcement operations.**

No information held

**4.3 Please confirm the financial budget/funding allocated by the police force for providing the access to professional interpretation, translation services and/or any other tailored support.**

There is no a specific budget allocated, the funding would be met from the Forces overall professional fees budget when needed.

**4.4 Does the police force have access to a set of volunteers that might enhance language support wherever possible?**

No information held

#### **5. Ancillary**

**5.1 If you are not able to answer any question in this FOI request, why not?**

**5.2 If you are not able to answer any question, does the data exist for that question?**

**5.3 If the data does not exist, why not?**

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**