



# Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Ministry of Defence Police

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2023/04460

RFI: 101/23

Date: 19 May 2023

Dear [Redacted]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE: VETTING INFORMATION.**

We refer to your email dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

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 treat this as a request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and provide the following information in relation to your pre-employment applicant and post-employment employee vetting processes:**

- 1. What is the vetting process for people when initially joining your force? Please provide documentation.**
- 2. What is your process for checking the identity of people applying to join the force? Please provide documentation.**
- 3. Please confirm whether applicants are subjected to biometric vetting (fingerprints and DNA).**
- 4. The College of Policing APP on Vetting refers to 'checkable history': please specify the history of an applicant that is checked in vetting by your force**

- 5. What is the vetting process that you operate for officers and staff transferring to your force from another police force? Please provide copy of documentation setting out the process.**
- 6. What is the vetting process for officers and staff transferring within your force to a different role? Please provide copy of documentation setting out the process.**
- 7. What is your process or procedure for vetting of transgender people? Please provide documentation setting out the process/procedure.**
- 8. How often is vetting clearance reviewed/renewed in your force?**
- 9. What is the process for reviewing/renewing vetting for officers and staff. Please provide copy of documentation setting out the process.**

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

- 1. What is the vetting process for people when initially joining your force? Please provide documentation.**

All new entrants must obtain Security Check (SC) clearance as a minimum. This is the lower security clearance required by the Government and involves a credit check and checks against such things as UK criminal and security records and, if appropriate, those of overseas countries. Some posts will require new entrants to obtain an enhanced level of vetting. Further information can be found at [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/united-kingdom-security-vetting](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/united-kingdom-security-vetting)

Applicants must also successfully complete Force Vetting. This is carried out in accordance with the [College of Policing APP on Vetting 2021](#)

- 2. What is your process for checking the identity of people applying to join the force? Please provide documentation.**

Candidates are required to submit a copy of their passport and or birth certificate with their application. This is checked by assessors at the interview. Should candidates get past the interview, their identity docs will be verified in person at their fitness test.

- 3. Please confirm whether applicants are subjected to biometric vetting (fingerprints and DNA).**

No, this is not currently included in the vetting process.

- 4. The College of Policing APP on Vetting refers to 'checkable history': please specify the history of an applicant that is checked in vetting by your force.**

As part of the checks, the vetting team need to be able to check the applicant's residence, and therefore a requirement is that applicants have at least 5 years "checkable history" in the UK.

- 5. What is the vetting process that you operate for officers and staff transferring to your force from another police force? Please provide copy of documentation setting out the process.**

The MDP follow the processes set out in the [College of Policing APP on Vetting 2021](#) sections 7.13 and 7.14.

- 6. What is the vetting process for officers and staff transferring within your force to a different role? Please provide copy of documentation setting out the process.**

The process for police officers and civilian staff transferring between roles is set out in the MDP Vetting Policy and Standard Operating Procedures documents.

These documents are being withheld under the Section 24 (1) National Security exemption. This is a prejudice based qualified exemption and there is a requirement to consider the public interest by conducting a public interest test. We have concluded that the balance strongly favours withholding the information requested. Although the public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and how resources are distributed within policing, releasing documents in scope of your request would render national security measures less effective. This would lead to the compromise of ongoing or future operations to protect the security or infra-structure of the UK and increase the risk of harm to the public.

- 7. What is your process or procedure for vetting of transgender people? Please provide documentation setting out the process/procedure.**

The MDP follow the processes set out in the [College of Policing APP on Vetting 2021](#) section 4.2.

- 8. How often is vetting clearance reviewed/renewed in your force?**

The MDP follow the timescales set out in the [College of Policing APP on Vetting 2021](#) section 8.49.

- 9. What is the process for reviewing/renewing vetting for officers and staff. Please provide copy of documentation setting out the process.**

The MDP carry out a review of Recruitment Vetting once in the ten year period of validity. Management Vetting is reviewed annually as set out in the College of Policing APP on Vetting section 10. Where adverse information regarding a staff member comes to light the

vetting clearance may be reviewed in line with the MDP Vetting Standard Operating Procedures.

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**