



CIVIL NUCLEAR CONSTABULARY

The Executive Office

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Building F6 Culham Science Centre

Abingdon

Oxon

OX14 3DB

Tel: 03303 135400

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/cnc>

20 November 2025

Dear Requester

I am writing in response to your request for information regarding the below. Your request has been handled under Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. In accordance with Section 1(1) (a) of the Act I hereby confirm that the CNC/CNPA does hold information of the specified type.

Your Request:

- 1. Do you issue individual first aid kits to officers?**
- 2. If so what is the contents?**
- 3. What respirator do you issue to officers?**

CNC Response:

1. The CNC does issue individual first aid kits to officers.
2. The typical contents of a first aid would include:
 - gloves
 - field dressing
 - face shield & lubricating gel
 - chest seal
 - tourniquet
 - scissors
 - nasopharyngeal airway

3. I can confirm that the CNC does issue respirators to officers. However, the specific information concerning the types of respirators issued is exempt under S24 National Security and S38(1) Health and Safety. The reasoning behind my decision is given below:

It is generally recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable, and the threat from terrorism cannot be ignored

Since 2006 the UK Government has openly published the threat level based upon current intelligence.

That threat level currently sits at **'Substantial.'**

The release of this level of detail into the public domain is likely to assist potential terrorists, thus seriously threatening national security.

Members of the criminal fraternity are likely to benefit from the disclosure as it will increase the publicly available knowledge of the capabilities of the CNC, potentially making it easier for criminals to cause physical harm to officers and the public, whether terror-related or otherwise.

The disclosure would therefore be likely to help to inform targeted attacks which result in maximum casualties, and which therefore endanger the safety of those persons working at our sites, members of surrounding communities and also police officers.

Public Interest Test

Considerations favouring disclosure under Section 24

Disclosure would enable the Constabulary to demonstrate awareness of potential issues that may impact upon the community and provide reassurance to the public that the police have the ability and resources in place to prevent and detect criminality.

The public are entitled to know how the police service undertakes its duties.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 24

Disclosure of the information requested would enable the public to gauge the efficiency and effectiveness of the abilities of CNC officers to respond to physical injuries caused to members of the public, or themselves, using equipment provided.

Disclosure would give information to those intent on causing harm to officers, the ability to plan the specifics of their attack in such a way that the

respirators available to officers could be rendered ineffective. Armed with knowledge of the specific respirator and canister filters supplied, criminals could potentially source agents with the capacity to defeat this equipment

Considerations favouring disclosure under Section 38

The public are entitled to know what areas of criminal activity the police service allocate public funds to, therefore by disclosing this information would lead to better informed public awareness and debate.

Disclosure of the information would assist communities to be more aware of the level of protection afforded to them.

Considerations favouring non-disclosure under Section 38

Public safety is of paramount importance to the police service and its partner agencies. In this case the disclosure of information may assist terrorists to further their aims by violent means, thus putting the safety of members of the public and police officers at risk.

Whilst wishing to embrace the ethos of information disclosure, this cannot take precedence over public safety.

Balance Test

Whilst I acknowledge that there is a legitimate public interest in disclosing the information requested, the Police Service will not divulge information if to do so will prejudice national security or place the safety of any individual at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations, the risk of terrorism, and other more common forms of criminality, there is also a strong public interest in safeguarding the wellbeing of the police officers carrying out these operations and the communities they serve.

Having weighed up the competing arguments, I have concluded that on this occasion the public interest is best served by maintaining the exemptions afforded by Sections 24 and 38. I have therefore decided to refuse to release the specifics of the respirators used by the CNC.

Context:

The Civil Nuclear Constabulary is a specialist armed police service dedicated to the civil nuclear industry, with Operational Policing Units based at 10 civil nuclear sites in England and Scotland and over 1600 police officers and staff. The Constabulary headquarters is at Culham in

Oxfordshire. The civil nuclear industry forms part of the UK's critical national infrastructure and the role of the Constabulary contribute to the overall framework of national security.

The purpose of the Constabulary is to protect licensed civil nuclear sites and to safeguard nuclear material in transit. The Constabulary works in partnership with the appropriate Home Office Police Force or Police Scotland at each site. Policing services required at each site are agreed with nuclear operators in accordance with the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and ratified by the UK regulator, the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). Armed policing services are required at most civil nuclear sites in the United Kingdom. The majority of officers in the Constabulary are Authorised Firearms Officers.

The Constabulary is recognised by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS). Through the National Coordinated Policing Protocol, the Constabulary has established memorandums of understanding with the local police forces at all 10 Operational Policing Units. Mutual support and assistance enable the Constabulary to maintain focus on its core role.

We take our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act seriously but, if you feel your request has not been properly handled or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to complain. We will investigate the matter and endeavour to reply within 3 – 6 weeks. You should write in the first instance to:

Jo Sawley
Disclosures Officer
CNC
Culham Science Centre
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 3DB

E-mail: FOI@cnc.pnn.police.uk

If you are still dissatisfied following our internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner. Before considering your complaint, the Information Commissioner would normally expect you to have exhausted the complaints procedures provided by the CNPA.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

FOI Compliance Team (complaints)
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

If you require any further assistance in connection with this request, please contact us at the address below:

Jo Sawley
Disclosures Officer
CNC
Culham Science Centre
Abingdon
Oxfordshire
OX14 3DB
E-mail: FOI@cnc.pnn.police.uk

Yours sincerely

Jo Sawley
Disclosures Officer