



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>

11 December 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 not hold information of the specified type. Therefore, the answer to your question is NIL. Please see below 'CNC Response.'

Your Request:

On 26 November, the CNC Facebook page posted about officers conducting Project Servator in Sizewell.

One of the deployment locations was [REDACTED] where a road check within the meaning of s4 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was conducted.

This was a road check within the meaning of s4 PACE, because the constabulary described it as a "vehicle check point" in their social media post, and police officers were exercising (within the meaning of s4(2)):

"in a locality of the power conferred by section 163 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 in such a way as to stop during the period for which its exercise in that way in that locality continues all vehicles or vehicles selected by any criterion",

and were doing so (within the meaning of s4(1)):

"for the purpose of ascertaining whether a vehicle is carrying ... (a) a person who has committed an offence other than a road traffic offence or a vehicle excise offence; (b) a person who is a witness to such an offence; [or] (c) a person intending to commit such an offence".

Therefore, could you please provide me a copy of the authorisation for this road check that was given in writing by a superintendent (or higher) under s4(3) PACE 1984?

CNC Response:

The deployment you refer to is authorised under **S163 of the Road Traffic Act of 1988**, whereby a person driving a motor vehicle on a road must stop the vehicle on being required to do so by a constable in uniform. This power does not require an officer to have any particular reason to stop a motor vehicle and there is no requirement for the officer to explain why he or she has carried out the stop.

Section 4 of the PACE Act of 1984 allows either all vehicles or those selected by a particular criterion to be stopped in a particular locality in order to locate an offender or witness involved in an indictable offence (subject to authorisation).

The purpose of the Project Servator deployment is not to locate an offender or witness involved in an indictable offence.

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 contributes 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. 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 request an internal review. We will investigate the matter and aim to reply within three to six 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 expect you to have exhausted the internal review procedure 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 using the details provided above.

Yours sincerely

Jo Sawley

Disclosures Officer