| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1166  Responded to: 29 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In relation to Q3, 'There is a “questioning styles” input on the SOLO VRI course. The guidance is that officers should avoid suggestibility and leading questions when interviewing a victim.'**

**Can I please ask why this is important - ie to avoid suggestion or leading questions?**

The agreed training package is signed off by business area leads, assisted by Quality Assurance experts to ensure learning outcomes are being met. The reason it is deemed important to avoid suggestion or leading questions are;

* So that you are not introducing information that has not been said by the survivor / complainer / victim.
* It is the role of the investigatory officer to obtain an unbiased account without prejudice and preconceived thoughts.
* The investigatory officer should be led by the information provided by the survivor/ complainer / victim.
* The most preferred questioning styles are open prompts. This includes invitations i.e.
* tell me everything that has happened in as much details as you can?
* cued invitation (using a piece of already disclosed information and encouraging them to expand on it to get a more detailed account).
* We also use time segmentation, which is a breakdown of the incident into smaller chunks to make it easier to recall and obtain a further detailed account.

This information is contained within the training package and when deployed successfully can lessen the effects of trauma or re-traumatisation of the survivor / victim / complainer.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.