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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0251
Date: 21st February 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

My 21 August 2021 FOI request, given reference IM-FOI-2021-1938, sought information on the six 'training areas' that are now known to be part of the ' Eskdalemuir 2K Training Facility' emphasising the importance for members of the public to be made aware of their locations as soon as possible. The documents provided in response as attachments to the 17 September email from the FOI Team included maps and 'safety inspections' for Training Areas 1 and 4.

The 20 September review request, given reference IM-FOI-2021-2185, again highlighted the need for members of the public to be aware of those areas of Eskdalemuir Forest that are potentially affected by long distance target rifle shooting and asked for maps for Training Areas 2, 3, 5 and 6 and the full extent of Training Area 4 to be provided as matter of urgency. The 1 October response stated: "Following a further search of our records, no additional maps have been found in regards to the requested training areas".

The 4 October follow up request again emphasised the urgency for members of the public to be fully aware of the extent of shooting activities because of the obvious danger to recreational users of the forest and considerable distress to local residents that the continued uncertainty is causing. The 20 October response indicated that this had been dealt with previously and "will not be addressed as part of the internal review process".

It is now more than six months since the additional Eskdalemuir Forest ranges came to light in a 3 August range operator facebook post which stated: "The first of these to come online under the new Police Scotland requirement of Independent Range Safety Inspection is Training Area 4, which was used this Sat 31 July for the long awaited Send It Series comp.Next to be certificated (in the next couple of weeks) will be Training Area 3, and the combination of 3 & 4 is where the Dynamic SIS will take place on Friday September 24, with the usual SIS on Sat 25 Sept. Training Areas 2 to 6...have been Police approved for this purpose".

It seems clear from this statement that at least Training Area 3 will have been 'certificated' by now and a further search of Police records since 1 October for

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safety assessments, approvals and location maps for this and Training Areas 2, 5 and 6 is requested.

Whilst your question only refers to training areas 2, 5 and 6, I note you also mention training area 3 in your request. In case this was an accidental omission, I have included training area 3 in your request.

Following an additional search I can confirm that Police Scotland have no documentation relating to training areas 2, 3, 5 or 6.

As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.