

OFFICIAL

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2218
Date: 16th November 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.

1. Do serving officers receive mental health first aid training or a similar equivalent? (Note: this is defined as training to enable officers to support members of the public suffering from a mental illness in a moment of crisis, not support relating to officers' own mental health or mental health legislative training, nor training on the wider presence of mental illness in society. For more information see Scotland's Mental Health First Aid: <https://www.smhfa.com/>).

I can confirm that Scotland's Mental Health First Aid (SMHFA) is not delivered within Police Scotland as a mandatory course but is instead available as a voluntary course. The course itself is designed for the general public and so does not always fit the bespoke needs of what a police officer may need when assisting a member of the public in mental health distress.

2. If so, what percentage of serving officers have received mental health first aid training or a similar equivalent to enable them to appropriately support members of the public suffering from mental distress?

3. If possible, can this information also be broken down by division and command area?

In regards to these two questions, as Officers may have also attended the course outwith Police Scotland and delivered by a 3rd party we do not have complete records of all those who have attended SMHFA training. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that complete and accurate statistics in this regard is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of some assistance however, I can confirm that our training records show that 448 officers and staff are noted as completing the internal the Mental Health First Aid training course.

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

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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.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.