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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1300
Date: 08 July 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.

This is a FOI request concerning your force's first aid training policies in respect of your Special Constables who are qualified and practicing medical professionals in their paid employment.

1) Do you require all Special Constables who are practicing medical professionals to complete your force's full annual first aid training to the College of Policing First Aid Learning Programme standard (FALP) standard, or do any officers currently have an exemption from mandatory first aid training because of other qualifications?

2) If you exempt any Special Constables who are practicing medical professionals from first aid training then please can you tell me what qualifications, job roles or current professional registrations (eg HCPC, NMC, GDC, GMC etc) you grant such exemptions to.

3) If you exempt any Special Constables who are practicing medical professionals from first aid training then please can you tell me if you extend that exemption to qualified Ambulance Technicians who are not registered by the HCPC.

4) If you have a policy covering the exemption of Special Constables who are practicing medical professionals from first aid training then please can I have a copy of that policy.

5) If you exempt any Special Constables who are practicing medical professionals from first aid training then please can you tell me approximately how many officers currently have such an exemption.

In response to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Police Scotland do not follow the FALP programme from the College of Policing.

Police Scotland have an internal First Aid programme which all Special Constables regardless of other employment are required to complete.

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6) Do you place limitations on medical procedures that Special Constables who are practicing medical professionals may perform whilst on duty as police officers? For example, would you allow a practising consultant anaesthetist to intubate a patient whilst on duty as a Special Constable, when they are trained and qualified to do so in their paid employment, but that advanced medical procedure is not covered in the mandatory annual FALP training.

7) If you do place limitations on medical procedures that Special Constables who are practicing medical professionals may perform whilst on duty as police officers, then please can you tell me how you communicate this restriction to those officers.

In response to questions 6 and 7, in terms of Section 17 of the Act, I can confirm that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, there is no official policy which states which procedures can or cannot be undertaken by a medical professional while volunteering as a Police Scotland Special Constable.

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.