

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0031
Date: 4th 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.

1. The training of any force within Police Scotland about excited delirium (ED) or acute behavioural disturbance (ABD)

Following a clarification request it was confirmed that by “training of any force within Police Scotland” you meant “training in the force within Police Scotland”.

In 2011, content regards Excited Delirium was contained within the Operational Safety Training Manual, and detailed an overview of Excited Delirium (as referred at the time of publication), how to recognise those affected, why such affected people are of medical concern, and how to safely control and manage them.

Whilst this publication pre-dates Police Scotland, the content was delivered to all new officers and relevant staff employed by all legacy Scottish police forces. Officer Safety Training is recertified annually.

In 2017, Police Scotland created an e-learning package on ABD to supplement knowledge/awareness afforded by the content of the OST courses - this pack was completed by 10,567 employees across the organisation.

ABD continues to feature in the Operational Safety and First Aid Training syllabus.

2. When officers have dealt with ED/ABD, is it recorded anywhere?

There is no existing mechanism within Police Scotland to record encounters with individuals displaying signs/subsequent diagnosis of ED/ABD.

3. Is it required to use a Taser with someone who is exhibiting ED/ABD symptoms, and if so, what are the recorded numbers of such a use?

No, it is not required to use Taser on any person, whether we suspect ED/ABD or not. The justification to use the device is the responsibility of the officer concerned after they have evaluated the threat and risk assessment of the situation they face.

As the answer to the first part of your question is no, the second part is not applicable.

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4. When was training first introduced regarding ED/ABD, and when were the latest updates on said training?

As above, teaching on Excited Delirium was included in training prior to the amalgamation of legacy forces, and remained upon the inception of Police Scotland.

In 2020, the Operational Safety and First Aid training programme was subject to review, with the roll-out of most recent content on all associated matters commenced on 1st March 2021.

5. Who are the expert police trainers on ED/ABD in your force?

There are no designated 'experts' on ED/ABD within Police Scotland, with relevant material submitted for appropriate consultation with medical professionals ahead of publication/circulation by relevant training officers and/or staff.

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.