

OFFICIAL

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0844
Date: 04 May 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.

Please can you provide information to the following questions, with answers from January 2021 to present day:

1a. How many staff (including officers & PCSOs, detectives and civilian staff) have undertaken training in relation to Autism, Autism-Spectrum conditions and learning disabilities/difficulties? (Please breakdown the number by rank.)

1b. Is the training mandatory?

2a. Referring to those mentioned in Q1a, has anyone refused to undertake or not undertaken this training? (Please breakdown the number into the two categories by rank.)

2b. If so, is any disciplinary action taken against staff?

3a. How often is training supposed to be undertaken by staff?

3b. Are these guidelines followed?

4. What does the training entail?

In response to your request, we can advise the following. There is no 'formal' training specifically related to autism provided to police officers. However Module 4 of the Operational Safety Manual does provide officers and staff with advice for communicating effectively with people with mental health problems and considerations when dealing with individuals who have learning disabilities.

Police Scotland also provide awareness relating to autism through various documents and guidance which is provided and accessible to officers via Police Scotland's intranet system. Police Scotland has previously worked with ATLAS (Inverclyde based autism organisation) and Scottish Autism, through delivering inputs to probationers and Officer Safety Training instructors. Divisions can also have local arrangements and carry out awareness training with local partners.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

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.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.