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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1543  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 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.

**a) Information relating to the decision to terminate overseas training activities in Sri Lanka as announced by the Chief Constable in November 2021. For example this information may be OSJA or IPAB assessments, or internal Police Scotland documents. If it is deemed that such documents cannot be released, then an outline of the primary rationale for terminating Police Scotland activity in Sri Lanka and who took the decision – e.g chief constable/ FCDO/ Scottish Government would be appreciated.**

In May 2021, the International Development Board, chaired by DCC Kerr, made the decision to formally pause all activity relating to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCOD) funded work within Sri Lanka. This was communicated in writing to the British High Commission in Colombo and was to enable a review of the Overseas Security and Justice Assistance (OSJA) assessment to take place. A paper was written for the November International Development Board (IDB) as an update, which was included on the agenda for the meeting on the 19th November.

On the 18th November 2021, the International Development and Innovation Unit (IDIU) received a verbal update regarding the OSJA, which remained subject to review. This information was provided as an update and it was decided that the recommendation at the IDB the next day would be verbally amended to support formally concluding the work. This decision was made by DCC Kerr and was then endorsed at IDB on the 19th November. This was then communicated to the British High Commission in Colombo, with the rationale summarised as:

We are reviewing future international programmes of work to ensure our capability and limited resources are engaged and best directed to where they can be most effective and make a positive contribution.

In regards to the paper written for the November IDB, please find this attached to the response. I would advise that it has been necessary to withhold some of the information requested, therefore, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought.

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Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

- (a) states that it holds the information,
- (b) states that it is claiming an exemption,
- (c) specifies the exemption in question and
- (d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at:

Section 31(1) – National Security and Defence

Section 32(1)(a) – International Relations

Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Information

Section 31(1) – National Security and Defence

Section 32(1)(a) – International Relations

Information is exempt from disclosure if disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially relations between the UK and any other State; relations between the UK and any international organisation or international court; and the interests of the UK abroad.

Police Scotland works in partnership with other agencies in order to combat issues such as terrorism and organised crime. The importance of building and maintaining goodwill within international relations cannot be underestimated and to disclose the information requested would undermine any such relationships and would place the security and safety of the UK under threat.

These are non-absolute exemptions and require the application of the Public Interest Test.

Release of the information would provide openness and transparency by highlighting that Police Scotland is proactively engaging with the relevant agencies and departments as part of global crime initiatives, however the importance of building and maintaining goodwill within international relations cannot be underestimated. To reveal details of international discussions would undermine this relationship and trust built up between Police Scotland and international agencies.

This is also relevant in relation to information sharing among Governmental Departments and other law enforcement agencies both within the UK and abroad. Anything which places that confidence at risk would undermine the trust members of the public, as well as other agencies have in the Police Service.

In addition any disclosure by Police Scotland that places the security of the country at risk, no matter how generic, would undermine any trust or confidence individuals have in us.

On balance, I must conclude that the public interest lies in maintaining the exemptions and in refusing to provide the information sought.

Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Information

Any information that could lead to the identification of individuals has been redacted. This is in accordance with Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 –

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Personal Information.

This relates to the names of persons who are outside Police Scotland and any staff member within Police Scotland of a more junior role (below the rank of Superintendent or Head of Department). Those of a more senior rank would be included as it is deemed within the public interest to do so but there are none within this document in any event.

As such, the processing would be unfair and unlawful in respect of the individuals concerned and would therefore be in breach of the first principle of the Data Protection Act 2018. This is an absolute exemption, which does not require a public interest test to be conducted.

**b) From January 2021 to present how many training programmes has Police Scotland delivered to overseas police forces, either in-country or to delegations visiting Scotland? I would like this information broken down by: (i) Who funded the training e.g. Scottish Government/ FCO/DFID now FCDO, target countries themselves? (ii) Which forces received training?**

Police Scotland undertakes training in support of the Scottish Governments and the UK Government's international policing assistance policies.

All initiatives undertaken are reviewed to ensure they deliver against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular against:

- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequality
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Since January 2021, Police Scotland has delivered training, co-ordinated by the International Development and Innovation Team as follows:

### **Colombia**

This activity, funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, involves the provision of technical support to the UN International Organisation for Migration (IoM) to assist the development of the National Colombia Police, with a focus on:

Community-based crime prevention  
Transformation of social conflicts with a rights-based approach  
Mainstreaming a gender approach into policing

Workshop engagements have been online and have been provided to National Colombia Police officers and UN IoM officials. In total 15 workshops and 2 peer to peer session have been held.

A deployment was carried out by Police Scotland to Colombia in March 2022. No training was delivered during this deployment.

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This programme commenced in February 2021 and Police Scotland have recently extended the MOU for a further year, including new topics of:

Police Service Management  
Integrity

### **Malawi and Zambia programme**

Funded by the Scottish Government Police since 2016, Scotland has previously provided training to support the Malawi and Zambia Police Services to develop their response to gender based violence and to enhance child protection services. No training has been provided since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic. A scoping visit was carried out in May 2022 to both Malawi and Zambia but no training was delivered during this visit.

### **Gibraltar**

In April 2021, anti-corruption training course delivered on line to four officers from Royal Gibraltar Police.

Funded by Royal Gibraltar Police

### **Hellenic Police**

In October 2021, 2 officers from Hellenic Police and an observer attended the Domestic Abuse Investigators Course at the Scottish Police College.

Funded by FCDO, British Embassy Athens

### **Grand Cayman Islands:**

An officer travelled to Cayman Islands in March 2022 for one week. This deployment was requested by the UK Home Office to assist with the implementation of the Child Abuse Image Database (CAID) system on a technical front in addition to training Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) staff in how to train trainers to cascade information to the wider Cayman Islands Digital Forensic Staff.

Funded by FCDO.

### **Malta:**

Member of Police Staff deployed to Malta in June 2022, to provide forensic accountancy training, on behalf of the National Coordinating Committee on Combating Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism (NCC) to prosecutors at the Office of the Attorney General and officials from the Financial Crimes Investigations Department.

Funded by National Coordinating Committee on Combating Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism (NCC).

Since January 2021, Police Scotland has also collaborated with law enforcement officers from across the United States of America through various initiatives taking place both within the USA and hosting study visits in Scotland.

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From April 2021 to May 2022, Police Scotland is collaborated with the Police Executive Research Forum <https://www.policeforum.org/> USA to deliver a Strategic Leadership Development Programme, the International Collaboration on Policing Masterclass Programme. The Masterclass programme focused on strategic leadership development and with the overall programme exploring legitimacy in policing and building public trust and confidence. Participants involved were Police Scotland Chief Superintendent and Superintendents and US law enforcement equivalents.

The Leadership in Counter Terrorism (LinCT) Programme is a senior executive leadership programme and includes delegates from Australian Federal Police (AFP), Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Police Scotland and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). During the 2022 Programme, Police Scotland hosted the global event between the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

In June 2022, Police Scotland hosted the FBI National Executive Institute as part of their leadership programme exploring leadership challenges and the Scottish approach to policing. This is funded by the FBI.

In July 2022, Police Scotland hosted the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) for a study visit to explore policing approaches in Scotland. This was funded by NJSACOP.

In addition to the above training programmes, since January 2021 Police Scotland has supported an inbound study visits hosting police officers from Germany (Polizei Berlin) in March 2022 under the Erasmus+ education programme, which focuses on sharing best practice and approaches.

During 2021, Police Scotland hosted two sessions for the international training programmes from the Royal College of Defence Studies, which is attended by police officers from a range of countries.

In October 2021 a FBI student from USA attended a National Negotiator Course as part of a mutual exchange.

In May 2022 an officer from the Republic of Ireland attended a Negotiator Co-ordinator Course which was funded by their own police service.

In addition to this, there have been other International Visitors to the Police Scotland International Academy and there have been awareness sharing events held, such as a workshop focused on reducing drugs deaths and COP26 debrief events to share learning. These has been attended by invited international partners and no training has been delivered during these events.

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.

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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](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, 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](mailto: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.