

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 6th July 2022

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2022 / 490

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13th June 2022 concerning Medically Qualified Special Constables.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Your request for information has now been considered and – having consulted our Learning & Development, Force Operations, Citizens in Policing, Clinical Governance and Force Policy Teams - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (and Our 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?

Special Officers who can prove they are in date (minimum 12 months) with a qualification of First Aid at Work (FAAW) or above will be recognised as APL (Accredited Prior Learning) and exempt.

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.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

As per above and including, any qualification of FAAW or higher will be exempt providing the officer can prove it and it is for 12 months or more (or primary role).

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.

The exemption would be extended to that of a technician whose primary role is higher than that of FAAW.

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.

At present there is no formal Policy in place for this – No Information Held.

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.

No information held.

We do not keep an active record of this anywhere. Each case would be dealt with on an individual basis and handled accordingly.

Note – where no information currently exists there is no obligation on an Authority to create new information simply to answer an FOI request.

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.

Special officers who hold a higher qualification WOULD NOT be authorised to carry any additional First Aid equipment whilst on duty as an officer and any specialised treatment they decided to use would be a judgement by them and then be covered by their own governance.

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.

We do not place any specific restrictions on our officers who hold the higher qualification and what they can do as they should not be in possession of any additional First Aid equipment when they go out on an operational duty and any actions they elect to do to treat a medical incident / emergency will be down to them and if of a higher level taught within our Police training will be governed by their own primary role governance.

An example of this is: we do not teach a Cardiac thump which can cause injury but needs no equipment, if they have been trained in their primary role then they might choose to use such a technique to save someone's life and is beyond that of most of their Special / Police colleagues training or ability.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Penny
Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original FoI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk