

11 February 2022

2022_007

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

REQUEST DETAILS

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 13 January in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

Guidance / detail outlining the SPA's role in the approval process for international / overseas projects and training programmes undertaken by Police Scotland.

Guidance / detail outlining any role the SPA has in ongoing monitoring and evaluation of Police Scotland's international / overseas projects and training programmes.

RESPONSE

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is able to provide the following information;

The overseas deployment of Police Scotland officers for operational purposes (e.g. the investigation of a crime committed in Scotland) is a matter for the Chief Constable. Such deployments would be subject to the Authority's statutory oversight function, reported where appropriate via the Chief Constable's Report to Authority meetings.

There are a number of touchpoints for the Authority in respect of the overseas deployment of Police Scotland officers or staff for non-operational activities - for example international development opportunities. These are set out below:

- The framework for international deployments is set out in the International Development Strategy¹ which sets out the basis for any international development activity undertaken by the service. The Authority considered this strategy in detail in June 2021.

¹ [rep-b-20210622-item-11-ps-international-development-strategy-unit.pdf \(spa.police.uk\)](#)

- The Authority takes into account and seeks assurance through the robust range of checks and balances in place which underpin all non-operational international development activities across the UK, including:
 - Compliance with National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) guidelines;
 - Completion of an Overseas Security and Justice Assessment² (OSJA) by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to assess the security and human rights implications of any arrangement, and;
 - Completion of an International Policing Assistance Brief³, which coordinates and alerts all police forces in the UK and Government Departments to initiatives in place.
- Primary consideration of individual development arrangements is led by Police Scotland's International Development Board and the SPA is represented on this by an Authority member.
- The financial implications for any non-operational international development arrangements are also subject to Authority consideration and approval in line with our scheme of delegation⁴ and financial regulations⁵.

It was agreed at an Authority meeting in November 2021⁶ that there would be further enhancement to these existing oversight and approval arrangements. This will result in updates to the Authority's governance framework and governance arrangements of the International Development Board referencing the Authority's role in respect of non-operational international deployments.

The Authority will consider revisions to its Governance Framework at a meeting to be held on 23 March 2022⁷. Papers for this meeting will be available on the Authority's website on 18 March 2022 and the session will be streamed live for interested parties to watch.

RIGHT TO REVIEW

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with 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@spa.police.uk or by post to Corporate Management Team, Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

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.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-security-and-justice-assistance-osja-guidance>

³ <https://www.npcc.police.uk/NPCCBusinessAreas/International.aspx>

⁴ [spa-corporate-governance-framework-final_approved-at-nov-board.pdf](#) (annex E)

⁵ [authority-s-financial-regulations-2021.pdf](#) (spa.police.uk)

⁶ [rep-b-20211109-item-2-1-draft-board-minute-24-nov-2021-public-items.pdf](#) (spa.police.uk)

⁷ - [Scottish Police Authority](#) (spa.police.uk)

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 Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.