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13th May 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/02560

Dear Requestor

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/02560**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 15th April. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1) Are student officers (recruits) routinely exposed to PAVA or equivalent during initial training?**
- 2) If Yes, are officers routinely exposed to PAVA or equivalent during refresher training?**
- 3) If exposed during refresher training, how often does this process get repeated?**
- 4) If the routine exposure to incapacitant sprays once formed part of your training procedures, but has since stopped, when did this practice stop?**
- 5) What was the rationale for the cessation of officers' exposure to PAVA or equivalent during training?**

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

**RESPONSE** - Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police and their Learning & Development team please see our response below: -

- 1) Yes, but this is only on a voluntary basis.
- 2) No.
- 3) Not applicable
- 4) Not applicable
- 5) Not applicable

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Gary Maxey  
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Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.