

Rachel Kryz

07 May 2019

**Ref: 8437**

Dear Ms Kryz

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request**

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request which we received on 04 April 2019.

The FOI Act gives you the right to know whether we hold the information you want and to have it communicated to you, subject to any exemptions which may apply. It is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. This means that any information disclosed under the FOI Act by definition becomes available to the wider public.

**Request**

***In respect of the area training workshops to support effective code-compliant RASSO prosecutions delivered by the Director of Legal Services and the Director's Senior Legal Adviser, as referenced in both the 2016-2017 and 2017-18 VAWG reports produced by the CPS please:***

***i) provide us with the date and location of each training workshop;***

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) understands the training workshops to which you refer in your request to be the series of talks delivered to each CPS Area's Rape and Serious Sexual Assault (RASSO) unit in 2017.

Diary records held indicate the following dates and locations:-

08/03/17 CPS London North (London)  
10/03/17 CPS London South (London)  
07/04/17 Yorkshire & Humberside (Leeds)  
25/04/17 North East (Manchester)  
25/04/17 Merseyside & Cheshire (Liverpool)  
26/04/17 East of England (Chelmsford)  
23/06/17 Thames Chiltern (St Albans)

05/07/17 Wessex (Portsmouth)  
19/07/17 North East (Newcastle upon Tyne)  
21/07/17 South East (Canterbury)  
30/08/17 Appeals Review Unit  
08/09/17 Appeals Review Unit

**ii) confirm whether training materials were developed for this course**

CPS Operations Directorate confirms that material was developed for all workshops.

**iii) if such materials were developed, provide them to us.**

The material is exempt under section 31 of the Freedom of Information Act – Law Enforcement. For more details relating to this exemption please see the attached section 17 refusal notice.

**Please respond to this request in respect of each training workshop in the period from January 2016 to the present date. If possible please respond to this request within 7 days.**

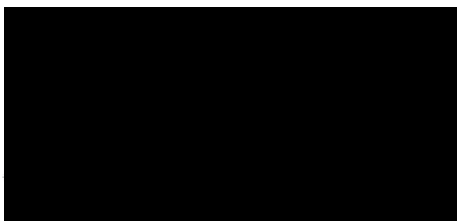
If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response. The internal review will be handled by a member of CPS staff who has not been involved with your original request.

[IMU@cps.gov.uk](mailto:IMU@cps.gov.uk)

Information Management Unit  
Floor 8  
102 Petty France  
London  
SW1H 9AJ

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely





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## Section 17 Notice under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

### WITHHOLDING INFORMATION

Section 31(1)(c) – Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice the administration of justice.

The disclosure of the content of internal training material could inhibit the ability of the CPS to conduct proceedings fairly.

This is a qualified exemption which means that the decision to disclose the material requested in FOI request reference 8437 is subject to the public interest test.

It may assist you to understand the decision if the public interest factors taken into account in this case is explained:

Public interest factors for disclosure:

To increase public understanding of the CPS decision making and prosecuting process.

Public interest factors against disclosure:

The CPS publishes a vast amount of legal guidance on the CPS website in order to be transparent and increase the public understanding of our practices and processes. However, some information needs to be withheld to protect the prosecuting process. Disclosure of training material to the world at large and/or those working for the defence would impede the work of prosecutors and reduce their effectiveness in prosecuting.

It is in the public interest that the CPS is confident in its ability to prosecute fairly and without prejudice to their processes. Legal guidance relating to rape and serious sexual offences can be accessed on the CPS website via the following link:

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/rape-and-sexual-offences>

On balance, I consider the public interest favours maintaining the exemption.

