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04/03/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2790/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding Marine Constable - boat handling standards, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

1. I am requesting information regarding the level of competency of a marine Constable, specifically the standard of training of boat handling skill level, non tactical.
2. Is there set national guidelines.
3. How does the skill level relate to MSN 1916 (M) Workboat code Edition 3 - Annex 3.
Also any relation to RYA/MCA level qualification.
Any relevant APP aswell.
4. I am requesting information regarding any meetings between agencies/governing bodies/forces as well as any policy/guidance relating.

Clarification point 4:

'Has the office got any local policy/guidance or national policy/guidance relating to boat handling?'

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does hold information that answers your request.

- 1. I am requesting information regarding the level of competency of a marine Constable, specifically the standard of training of boat handling skill level, non tactical.**

Marine policing operates under a dual governance framework, reflecting its combined law enforcement and maritime regulatory functions:

The policing components fall within the governance structures of NPCC

The maritime elements - including boat handling - are regulated in accordance with the MCA boat codes and the standards and governance of the RYA.

The level of RYA/commercial qualification required for marine police officers to operate on police boats is dependent on their role profile.

NPCC sets the minimum commercial qualification requirement for marine police officers within the 'National Marine Policing Training Framework', which at non-tactical level includes:

Police 2nd Crew = RYA Powerboat Level 2 or equivalent*

Police Coxswain = RYA Advanced Powerboat or equivalent*.

*Equivalent certification needs to be reviewed and endorsed by a Marine Policing Trainer, prior to being accredited in a given Role Profile. Marine Policing Trainers are qualified RYA instructors.

The decision to align to the NPCC standard or upskill to a higher commercial qualification, rests with individual Forces, based on local/regional requirement. There is no legal framework that mandates Forces align to NPCC guidance.

2. Is there set national guidelines.

National guidance for marine policing is laid down in the NPCC Maritime Policing Manual (MPM).

3. How does the skill level relate to MSN 1916 (M) Workboat code Edition 3 - Annex 3.

NPCC guidance aligns to both the Police Boat Common Code 3 (2014) and the Safety of Police Boats at Annex 3 of the MSN 1916 (M) Workboat code Edition 3 (2024).

Additionally, outside of this and as a gesture of goodwill, I can also confirm that the NPCC was a key stakeholder in the development of the Safety of Police Boats published in 2024. The variance of which code marine police officers align is dependent on the date the keel of that particular police boat was laid down.

Also any relation to RYA/MCA level qualification.

This question has been answered at question 1 above.

Any relevant APP as well.

No information held. In wishing to explain further, NPCC Maritime Policing does not sit within College of Policing APP. Where cross-over with APP exists, this is signposted within the MPM through links to the appropriate APP sections.

4. Has the office got any local policy/guidance or national policy/guidance relating to boat handling?

No information held. The NPCC Maritime Portfolio any specific local or national guidance related to non-

tactical boat handling.

As above, Non-tactical boat handling is externally governed by the MCA/RYA. NPCC aligns to this and does not deviate from MCA/RYA as the regulator.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

www.npcc.police.uk

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

Legislation – Section 16

- (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.