

c/o PO BOX 481
Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 9FS

Tel: 02380 478922

Email: npcc.foi.request@npfdu.police.uk

21/04/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2842/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding Op Soteria & Specialist Training, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting information about Operation Soteria and other specialist rape-investigation training programmes. For each police force and for each year from **2010 to 2025** inclusive, please provide:

1. The number of police officers who received training under Operation Soteria or equivalent specialist rape-investigation programmes.
2. A brief description or summary of the training curricula used.
3. Any performance metrics used to evaluate the effectiveness of this training (for example, changes in charge rates for rape offences, victim satisfaction scores or other indicators).

I am requesting aggregated information only and do not require any personal data. This request is intended to assess the coverage and impact of specialist training on rape investigations.

NPCC Response:

The NPCC does hold recorded information captured by part 1 and 2 of your request:

The following '*national*' training has been delivered based upon Operation Soteria principles. Force's deliver additional training locally to their officers and staff: -

- Rape and Serious Sexual Offences First Responder (RASSO FR) – This course is designed to be delivered to any officer or member of Police staff who has not received other specialist training but may have contact with RASSO victims.
- Rape and serious Sexual offences investigative Skills Development Programme (RISDP) – RISDP has now been discontinued and replaced. It was designed to provide specialist training for Police officers and

staff who are involved in the investigation of RASSO offences. It could be completed by PIP1 and PIP2 officers and staff.

- Specialist Sexual Assault Investigators Development Programme (SSAIDP) – SSAIDP is a specialist RASSO investigation programme designed for PIP 2 officers and staff who will conduct investigations.
- NOM CPD – NOM CPD is specialist training for PIP1 and PIP2 officers and staff who are involved in the investigation of RASSO offences.
- Non-contact Sexual offences – This is an online course aimed at PIP 1 and PIP 2 staff to give an understanding of dealing with non-contact sexual offences

Below is partial data on the number of trainers on each course.

RASSO First Response (RASSO-FR) – This consists of 4 online modules which need to be completed before a face-to-face final module. I can provide data relating to the online module completion only. This is a cumulative total and it is a total for all forces. The programme has been delivered since 2023. Since that time, the course has been delivered to 70'526 staff nationally. Every home office force has delivered training to some of their staff. This training programme is on-going.

Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Investigative Skills Development Programme (RISDP) - RISDP students complete the RASSO FR online modules prior to training. The NPCC is unable to differentiate between the RISDP number and the RASSO FR online module number. In order to differentiate between RISDP and the RASSO FR. An alternative route would be for you to contact each individual force that may hold this information. The NPCC are not lawfully obliged to retrieve information from individual forces in order to answer a request.

Specialist sexual assault investigators development programme (SSAIDP) – SSAIDP has had several versions. The number of students who have completed one of the available versions of SSAIDP is 4184 (2196 old version and 1988 new version)

National Operating Model CPD – This package consists of three modules. Module 1 is completed online, module 2 is delivered face to face, locally by forces and module 3 can be delivered either face to face or online. For this reason the data we hold for modules 2 and 3 is incomplete and held by forces locally.

Module 1 has been completed by 6998 learners as of 24th March 2026. This total includes both learners and facilitators.

Non-contact Sexual offences – This on-line training product had been completed by 96551 individuals by the end of 2025. This training is on-going and several thousand completions have occurred since 2025.

National Learning Network webinars/National Learning events

A number of webinars and events have also been hosted to a national audience on Op Soteria. The data below illustrates the attendees, it is not possible to state whether these were police officers or police staff.

The events totalled over 100 events with content including academic research findings by pillar, case studies from Forces, program updates and support webinars from the Operation Soteria team.

Live attendees:

October 2023-March 2024 - 1248

April 24- March 25 - 4277

April 25- March 26- 2829

Total - **8354**

Downloads of recordings (post Feb 2022) – 17575

Data can only be tracked back to Feb 22 but totals a reach of 26,609 officers.

Many other training packages are delivered both locally and nationally, have evolved because of the learning from Operation Soteria. The above are the packages that we can provide data upon. They do not reflect the full scope of learning delivered as a result of Operation Soteria.

Data relating to Operation Soteria national learning events is only available from **February 2022 onwards**, when consistent central recording commenced. The request seeks information from **2010 to 2025 inclusive**, and the College of Policing does not hold recorded information for the period prior to February 2022.

In addition, the **College of Policing was established in 2012**. Consequently, it does not hold recorded information relating to training activity prior to its establishment.

To provide the requested breakdown would require the College to manually review individual attendance records across a substantial number of events, attempt to identify force affiliations where available, reconcile incomplete or inconsistent data, and then compile a new dataset broken down by force and by year.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 provides a right of access to **recorded information held at the time of the request**. It does not require public authorities to create new information, carry out analysis, or reconstruct historical datasets in order to respond to a request.

The NPCC does hold recorded information captured by part 3 of your request.

The NPCC holds a draft College of Policing Specialist Sexual Assault Investigators Development Programme (SSAIDP) Training – Quantitative Findings and Implications for Practice dated March 2026.

This document isn't complete and under review internally with the College of Policing.

This document is withheld in full by Virtue of S31 Law Enforcement.

Release of the document, prior to being finalised by the College of Policing would undermine the effective development, evaluation and refinement of specialist sexual offence investigator training, which directly supports the investigation and prosecution of serious sexual offences.

For further information relating to the legislation, please see Annex A.

In wishing to provide assistance, the following information may be of interest to you:

[College of Policing article: Policing has more than doubled target for number of officers receiving rape investigative training](#)

[Operation Soteria: The difference between 2021 and 2026 - Policing Insight](#)

Additionally, a consideration for you is to make a request with individual police forces.

Unfortunately, I do not hold a public facing list of force FOI contact details, however they will be available [here](#).

You can send a request to multiple forces by way of one email, with each force having a lawful responsibility under the Act to respond to you.

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.

The legislation: Section 31 Law Enforcement

(1) 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 -

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders

The withheld information comprises a draft evaluative document relating to specialist sexual offences investigator training. The document is authored by the College of Policing and shared with the NPCC as part of ongoing national work to review, test and refine training approaches for investigators dealing with rape and serious sexual offences.

The document contains preliminary analysis, provisional findings, and material that is subject to change or rejection and which will not necessarily form part of any final published product.

Disclosure of this information at this stage would be likely to prejudice law-enforcement functions by undermining the effective development and evaluation of training and prosecution of serious sexual offences.

There is a strong public interest in ensuring that:

- Specialist rape investigation training is robust, evidence-based and accurate, and
- Conclusions used to shape investigative practice are properly quality assured.

Disclosure of draft analytical material, including content that is likely to be discarded, risks:

Misinforming public debate about investigative effectiveness.

Creating false or distorted narratives around charge rates, victim outcomes or officer capability,

Undermining confidence in policing responses to sexual offences.

This could directly prejudice the effective prevention and detection of serious crime.

There is a significant public interest in allowing policing bodies and their partners to:

- Test hypotheses,
- Challenge assumptions,
- Revise analytical findings without external pressure.

Early disclosure of incomplete evaluative material would be likely to:

- Inhibit frank professional and academic debate,
- Lead to defensive reporting rather than rigorous analysis,
- Weaken the quality of future evaluations that information operational policing.

This would prejudice the administration of justice, as ineffective or incomplete training frameworks directly affect investigative outcomes in serious sexual offence cases.

Effective law enforcement increasingly depends on:

- Close working relationships between the NPCC, the College of Policing, and academic partners,
- The willingness of partner bodies to share unfinished, exploratory or crucial findings.

If draft material is disclosed prematurely:

Partners may limit the detail or candour of information provided,
Evaluative material may be delayed, sanitised or not shared at all,
Collaborative development of operational practice may be undermined.

The public interest favours protecting these trusted relationships where they directly support the improvement of policing methods for serious crime, not relationship management for its own sake.

The draft document relates to an active and evolving national approach to RASSO investigations.

Premature release could:

- Affect how training is perceived and implanted locally,
- Lead to inconsistent application of investigative standards,
- Distract forces with rebuttal or clarification activity rather than operational improvement.

The public interest favours protecting work that is integral to improving the investigation of sexual offences, particularly where disclosure would not meaningfully enhance accountability at this stage.

It is recognised that promoting transparency around how specialist sexual offence training is evaluated.
Public confidence in policing responses to rape and serious sexual offences.
Legitimate public debate about the effectiveness of criminal justice interventions.

Whilst there is a recognised public interest in transparency, this is outweighed by the strong public interest in ensuring that law-enforcement training and investigative methodologies are developed using accurate, complete and rigorously tested evidence. Disclosure of draft material that may be misleading or discarded would risk prejudice to the prevention and detection of serious crime.

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.