

**OFFICIAL**

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0166  
Date: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022



## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**I refer to the force's new measures to tackle violence against women and girls. Part of these new measures according to the press is to have officer's switch on their radios to have somebody confirm at Police HQ to the women or girl who the officer is, why they are speaking to the girl or woman ect. This all apparently was introduced after The Met Police murder of the middle-class white Londoner Sarah Everard as opposed to being introduced after the Police Scotland killing of the impoverished black foreigner Sheku Bayoh.**

**I would therefore request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act of 2002:**

**A) Any recorded information held detailing if these or similar new measures will be introduced for white police officers approaching black suspects, witnesses or victims of crime of all genders and if it will apply to members of all genders of none BAME police officers.**

**B) Any information held detailing if these or similar new measures will be introduced for enabled police officers approaching disabled suspects, witnesses or victims of all genders and if so, will it apply to all enabled police officers of any gender.**

**C) I would request any information that would detail if such measures and the full package being sold to the genetic women and girls of Scotland will also apply to transgender women or girls who are approached by cisgender males or females of the force.**

In regards to the three questions above I must advise that it appears you are enquiring about future policies that may be introduced rather than specifically the officer verification process put in place after the murder of Sarah Everard.

The policy that was put in place is detailed in the below press release on our website:

<https://spi.spnet.local/policescotland/news/Pages/Lone-police-officers-to-offer-verification-check-to-members-of-the-public.aspx>

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You will note that whilst it was put in place in response to the murder of Sarah Everard, the process does not specifically relate to women or girls and is available to any member of the public. It is noted by our C3 division that the process has been used by those not identifying as female already and that using communication to reassure the public is a core part of an operational officer's role.

I must therefore advise that interpreting your request specifically as written, we do not hold documentation on planning the implementation of the above. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

The current policy is however open to any member of the public regardless of gender, race or disability.

**Finally, I would like to know if the police will be soon producing measures to protect males from false accusations of rape or domestic violence by genetic women or girls in Scotland.**

Any allegation of rape or domestic violence will be fully investigation by Police Scotland. There are no planned changes to this process. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, 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@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto: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 Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.