| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-3147  Responded to: 29 September 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In a** [**recent extract**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/victims-taskforce-papers-june-2024/) **from the Scottish Government Victims Taskforce (Issue no: 3e, dated 28 May 2024), it was noted that Police Scotland is reintroducing a document titled “Proactive Approach to Potential Victims Of Crime Guidance.”**

**I would like to request the following information:**

1. **A copy of the current version of the “Proactive Approach to Potential Victims Of Crime Guidance” document referred to in the Taskforce update.**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

To explain, the last version of that guidance was withdrawn in January 2020.

To be of assistance, I can advise that work is ongoing in relation a new document, ‘Proactive Investigations National Guidance’, but that remains in draft at this time.

1. **Any previous versions of this guidance that have been withdrawn, replaced, or amended.**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, in the form of three versions of the same guidance document, all of which have since been withdrawn:

* Proactive Approach to Potential Victims of Crime, version 1 published 14/08/2015
* Proactive Approach to Potential Victims of Crime, version 2 published 13/05/2016
* Proactive Approach to Potential Victims of Crime, version 3 published 24/03/2017

I am refusing to provide them in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

## Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

## Section 39(1) – Health and Safety

Disclosure would endanger the physical health and safety of members of the public.

Whilst disclosure of the information would inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate, any information identifying the focus of policing activity could be used to the advantage of criminals.

Police Scotland will not provide those with criminal intent any tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating any unlawful activities.

Any tactical advantage to criminals would assist them in circumventing the efficient and effective provision of law enforcement by the police service, which in turn would have an adverse impact on the safety of the general public.

It is doubtful it could ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would jeopardise the delivery of policing and the safety of individuals, and prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible.   
If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.