| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1244  Responded to: 24 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**We are seeking the policy and procedures in place for Forensic Nurses who attend patients in police custody. Specifically, we are seeking the policy and procedure that was in place in September 2021 in Lothian and Fife**

Firstly, it should be noted that whilst Forensic Nurses attend police stations, they work for the NHS, not Police Scotland.

The provision of medical care within Police Scotland custody facilities is the responsibility of the NHS and we believe your request would be better directed to them. - [Freedom of Information (FOI) | NHS inform](https://www.nhsinform.scot/freedom-of-information-foi)

The following is an extract from the National Memorandum of Understanding between Police Scotland and all geographical NHS Boards in Scotland that was active in 2021:

*In July 2011 the Director General of NHS Scotland, NHS Board Chief Executives and representatives of ACPOS agreed to move towards a partnership arrangement for Custody Healthcare and Forensic Medical Services, whereby the services provided in the past by Police Forces under the Scottish Home Department Circular 7362 dated March 1950, should now be jointly enabled by Police and Health and delivered by NHS Boards in accordance with the letter to the Chief Constable of Police Scotland from the Scottish Government which replaces the above 1950 Circular 7362.*

*In this context the Cabinet Secretaries for Health and Social Care and for Justice have now agreed the general approach being taken towards a transfer of funding and responsibility for the provision of healthcare and forensic medical services in police custody, based on the following:*

* *Responsibility for the healthcare in police custody, as a function of Health Boards under the terms of the Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, will be the function and responsibility of Health Boards;*
* *Forensic medical services should be delivered by the Health Boards but remain a function and responsibility of the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) under section 31 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012;*
* *Reflecting these responsibilities, healthcare and forensic medical services should be delivered as part of a combined service to ensure efficient and effective public services;*
* *Funding for healthcare in custody and forensic medical services should transfer from the police to Health Boards, via Scottish Government, at a level fair to both partners and agreed*
* *Funding relating to forensic services may be subject to review by both parties, specifically as a result of legislation or technical developments.*
* *Whilst working towards partnership agreements with Health Boards, the police will continue their current arrangements for the delivery of services.*

We can also provide the Care and Welfare Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that were in place in 2021. It should be noted that the documents refer to the whole of Scotland.

* Care and Welfare of Persons in Police Custody SOP, Version 15.00 (published 20/02/2020 – 13/12/2021) – FOI 25-1244 - 01
* Care and Welfare of Persons in Police Custody SOP, Version 16.00 (published 13/12/2021 – 04/05/2022) - FOI 25-1244 - 02

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.