| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1566  Responded to: 11 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, a copy of the full report produced by Police Scotland officers in relation to the Rising Sons of Ulster's organised procession through Johnstone on the 26th of April 2025.**

**Specifically, I am seeking any documentation, notes, logs, or reports compiled by attending officers or relevant departments regarding the planning, monitoring, and conduct of the procession, including any observations made about music being played as the procession passed places of worship.**

I have attached separately a copy of the Rising Sons of Ulster Police Report (FOI 25-1566 - 01) and Event Briefing Note (FOI 25-1566 – 02)

It should be noted that the Event Briefing Note is a template that is updated for each event. For this specific event, the date in the first few lines was not amended prior to the document being issued. This is why the date at the top of the letter and that provided in the first paragraph differ. The date provided at the top is correct.

As you will note some information has been redacted as I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

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

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Such information would prove extremely useful information for persons involved in criminality as they would be able to plan and conduct their activities to avoid detection. It would confirm the resources available in a specialised area of policing, which would allow those intent on wrong doing to judge the police response to a variety of incidents. In turn this would prejudice substantially the ability for our officers to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders.

Disclosure would have an adverse impact on the ability of the Police to carry out its law enforcement role effectively and thereby prejudice substantially the prevention and detection of crime.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

Public Interest Test  
As you will be aware, the exemption detailed above is non-absolute and requires the application of the public interest test. Public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding policing specific events.

That said, I would contend that the efficient/effective conduct of the service and public safety favours retention of the information as it cannot be in the public interest to release information that would prejudice law enforcement or which is likely to have an adverse impact upon public safety.

**Section 38(1)(b) - Personal Data**Personal data is defined in Article 4 of GDPR as: *‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person […] who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’*Personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR.  
Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met.  
The only potentially applicable condition is set out at Article 6(1)(f) which states:

*‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data.*Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of the report, I am nonetheless of the view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject(s). On that basis, it is my view that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

Regarding this specific Procession on 26th April 2025, I must advise there are no reports/ incidents of note, nor any particular comment on music played fed back by attending officers. Therefore, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

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.