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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1208
Date: 13th June 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 write to request information and records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 regarding your force's use of data analysis systems, automated decision-making systems, machine-learning and artificial intelligence.

Specifically I would like the following information:

- 1. Is your force using predictive location or geographic crime or incident mapping systems? If yes,**
 - a. Please provide details of which system(s) your force is using, including:**
 - i. The date it started being used;**
 - ii. What the purpose of the system is and who are the primary targets of the system;**
 - iii. What data the system uses and the sources of that data;**
 - iv. What outcomes the system's decisions or outputs lead to;**
 - v. Data Protection Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments which have been conducted;**
 - vi. Any internal reviews, reports or assessments of the operation of this system(s).**

Police Scotland do not use predictive location or predictive geographic crime or predictive incident mapping systems.

Police Scotland has identified the need for a sound governance framework to identify data ethical risks in this sort of data driven technology and have collaborated with the Centre for Data Ethics & Innovation to develop a Data Ethics Framework for Police Scotland. This is currently in early stages of implementation. This new data ethics process will ensure that we meet our aim to be "an organisation driven by effective and efficient use of data, in an ethical way".

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.

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2. Is your force using individual risk assessment systems which involve data analysis, automated decision-making, machine-learning and/or artificial intelligence?

a. If yes, please provide details of which system(s) your force is using, including:

- i. The date it started being used;**
- ii. What the purpose of the system is and who are the primary targets of the system;**
- iii. What data the system uses and the sources of that data;**
- iv. What outcomes the system's decisions or outputs lead to;**
- v. Data Protection Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments which have been conducted;**
- vi. Any internal reviews, reports or assessments of the operation of this system(s).**

Police Scotland do not use individual risk assessment systems which utilise the type of advanced analytics techniques identified in the request.

Police Scotland has identified the need for a sound governance framework to identify data ethical risks in this sort of data driven technology and have collaborated with the Centre for Data Ethics & Innovation to develop a Data Ethics Framework for Police Scotland. This is currently in the early stages of implementation. This new data ethics process will ensure that we meet our aim to be "an organisation driven by effective and efficient use of data, in an ethical way".

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.

3. Is your force using any other predictive, profiling or risk assessment systems, which involve data analysis, automated decision-making, machine-learning and/or artificial intelligence?

a. If yes, please provide details of which system(s) your force is using, including:

- i. The date it started being used;**
- ii. What the purpose of the system is and who are the primary targets of the system;**
- iii. What data the system uses and the sources of that data;**
- iv. What outcomes the system's decisions or outputs lead to;**
- v. Data Protection Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessments which have been conducted;**
- vi. Any internal reviews, reports or assessments of the operation of this system(s).**

Police Scotland do not use other predictive, profiling or risk assessment systems which utilise the type of advanced analytics techniques identified in the request.

Police Scotland has identified the need for a sound governance framework to identify data ethical risks in this sort of data driven technology and have collaborated with the Centre for Data Ethics & Innovation to develop a Data Ethics Framework for Police Scotland. This is currently in early stages of implementation. This new data ethics process will ensure that

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we meet our aim to be “an organisation driven by effective and efficient use of data, in an ethical way”.

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 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 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.