

**OFFICIAL**

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2156  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 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 am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information about the use of data analytics for predictive policing purposes by your force. Examples of this could be crime mapping and hotspot identification systems, data-matching systems, decision-support tools, risk assessment and management algorithms, among others.**

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

- **The names, descriptions and purposes of any predictive policing systems used or trialed over the past three years.**
- **The names of the companies providing the services/tools and the relevant contracts, if purchased commercially.**
- **The data sources used in the predictive policing system.**
- **Any data sharing agreements established for the predictive policing system.**
- **Any summary reports or assessments produced in relation to trials/deployments.**
- **Any impact assessments (equalities, human rights, data protection) produced for the predictive policing system.**
- **Any consultations or reviews carried out prior to the deployment of the system.**
- **Any documents produced for the training of staff members in the use/operation of the system.**

Police Scotland do not use data analytics for predictive policing purposes.

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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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.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.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.