| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0919  Responded to: 11 May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**All correspondence and documents related to the timing of xxxxx xxxxxxxx arrest.**

**All correspondence with the SNP about xxxxx xxxxxxxx arrest.**

I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600/40 hours and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, our records are easily identifiable for a policing purpose and should someone wish to obtain information relating to a specific aspect in relation to an investigation such as Operation Branchform, then the appropriate department would be contacted and information sought.

In terms of the request it is too wide to collate data within the timescales prescribed under the Act.  To explain further, each area has their own shared drives, which would require to be checked for documentation, along with every individual’s mailbox and also any departmental mailboxes.  Whilst we could carry out a search of departments where we think the information would be held relating to your request, we cannot guarantee that this would produce any information or would provide a full and accurate picture in terms of your request.

In terms of a central repository of information relevant to this enquiry, there is at this time nearly 1000 folders, containing in excess of 10,000 files.  Once the items are transferred to this repository, the date on the file is amended electronically to show the date that the file was moved to that repository and therefore the ability to perform date relevant searches diminishes.  We have then performed key word searches and as way of an example, the term Operation Branchform returned 604 items which would then require to be individually accessed, read and assessed as to whether it would fall within the terms of this request.  Similar checks would require then to be performed on similar phrases such as Op. Branchform and Branchform which would again add to the number of files that would require to be checked. If it took 5 minutes to search each document this would result in 50 hours, which exceeds the £600 and 40 hours prescribed by the Scottish Ministers under the Act.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.