| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2388  Responded to: 06 October 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to request information on the reasons for leaving police tape and other debris/litter connected to the police at the scene where police are present, e.g., car crashes with police tape left behind after the clearing of the car and/or majority of the debris. Specifically, I would like to know:

## What are the police's policies and procedures on the removal of police tape and other debris/litter connected to the police from crime scenes and other scenes where police are present?

## What are the reasons for leaving police tape and other debris/litter connected to the police in place after police have left the scene?

## How long is police tape and other debris/litter connected to the police typically left in place after police have left the scene?

## Who is responsible for removing police tape and other debris/litter connected to the police from crime scenes and other scenes where police are present?

## What steps are taken to ensure that police tape and other debris/litter connected to the police is removed from crime scenes and other scenes where police are present in a timely manner?

## I would be grateful if you could provide me with this information in as much detail as possible. I am particularly interested in any information that relates to the removal of tape and other debris/litter from the scenes of car crashes or other areas of previous police presence.

In response, I can advise you that there is no policy or Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which covers the questions asked. As such, in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

To be of assistance, you may find section 4 of the [Crime Investigation SOP](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/uwwcamlx/crime-investigation-sop.pdf) of interest.

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.