| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-3288Responded to: 10 October 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing under the Freedom of Information Scotland Act 2002 (FOISA) to request the disclosure of all information held by Police Scotland related to Mark Richardson and his gang, including all closed, concluded, and publicly reported cases.

**Please provide:**

Complete case files, prosecution records, custody records, charge reports, court documents, sentencing and appeal documents, Serious Crime Prevention Orders (SCPOs), confiscation orders, Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) related files, and financial investigation reports concerning Mark Richardson and members of his gang.

## All evidence and operational materials including body-worn video footage, custody suite CCTV, other CCTV, photographs, audio-visual media, search warrants, warrant returns, property inventories, and evidence seizure logs related to Mark Richardson and his gang.

## Custody and prison transfer records, including disciplinary action reports, if applicable. Internal Police Scotland reports, debriefs, risk assessments, and joint operation correspondence with external agencies such as the NCA, HMRC, and regional forces related to Mark Richardson and his gang.

## Public and external communications such as press releases, official statements, media briefings, and correspondence with the Crown Office, Procurator Fiscal Service, or Scottish Government concerning Mark Richardson and his gang.

## Any court transcripts, witness statements, victim or community impact statements, and police interview records, subject to data protection laws.

## Records of public complaints and investigations concerning police conduct related to these matters, if relevant.

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.

Whilst we accept that there is a public interest in informing the public of gang related crime, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting the integrity of police investigations and any subsequent prosecutions.

* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of at least one exemption set out in the Act. In this instance, the following exemptions apply:
* Section 34(1)(b) – Investigations
* Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement
* Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Data

If held, the information sought would be held for the purposes of an investigation and it is assessed by Police Scotland that disclosure would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

It would also be personal data relating to the individual named in your request.

Section 38 of the Act provides that 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 which states that:

‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’.

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 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, in particular where the data subject is a child’.

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information, I do not agree that disclosure could be considered necessary in the circumstances.

Notwithstanding, I am further of the view that your interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

On that basis, it is considered that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

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 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 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.