| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2564  Responded to: 26 October 2023 |
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## Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## All correspondence from the Force Executive and the Scottish Government regarding the pilot scheme in Police Scotland’s North East division whereby ‘no further action’ will be taken if it is deemed that there are no proportionate lines of enquiry to investigate. This should include emails, phone calls, zoom/ teams meetings and in-person meetings (along with minutes of those meetings). Please provide this information between 1 May 2023 to 4 September 2023 inclusive.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process this part of your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 16(4) of the Act, as section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance - applies.

I recognise that you have reduced the scope of your original request to focus on the Force Executive only, and with a slightly shorter date range, but I’m afraid the response remains the same.

To explain, the only methodology we could utilise for your request is a keyword search of information held electronically - whether that be in personal email accounts, group mailboxes, personal drive areas or shared drive areas.

There are a few, obvious, search terms such as ‘North East’, ‘Scottish Government’ etc but as I’m sure you will appreciate, it would be nigh on impossible to come up with a comprehensive set of words/ phases to search for to ensure that all potentially relevant information was sourced.

The [Force Executive](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/executive-team/) is of course a far smaller pool of individuals than was covered by the scope of your original request but it remains a pool of more than 20 individuals (accounting for staff changes over the period) and information of relevance could be held in a number of locations both personal to them and also shared with their wider business area.

It is therefore assessed that the cost of locating, retrieving and providing the information sought would be in excess of £600.

## When the public are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the pilot, whether they will be told what crimes the pilot did, or did not, apply to or if the pilot applied to all crimes in the north east area and whether any guidance produced for the purposes of this scheme will be provided publicly.

As detailed in our previous response to you (FOI 23-2269), an evaluation group has been established.

The group has identified a number of qualitative and quantitative areas for inclusion in the evaluation process, including mechanisms for the public to provide feedback on the pilot.

At the present time, the information sought is however not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

The feedback process and associated information to be made publicly available has not yet been decided upon/ produced.

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.