| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1889Responded to: 25 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am conducting historical research into the Lockerbie disaster (Pan Am Flight 103, 21 December 1988) and wish to request, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, access to the following:**

1. **Photographic and video documentation of the crash site collected by law enforcement or forensic teams in the immediate aftermath.**
2. **Any internal visual reports or scene walkthroughs, including aerial photography, if available.**
3. **Supporting records that may detail the process or timeline of visual evidence collection.**

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

**Section 34(1)(b) – Investigations**

‘Information is exempt information if it has at any time been held by a Scottish Public

Authority for the purposes of an investigation, conducted by the authority, which in the circumstances may lead to a decision by the authority to make a report to the Procurator Fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted’

This exemption applies only to the extent that the public interest in maintaining the exemption is not outweighed by that in disclosing the information.

Whilst I accept that this investigation is of significant interest to the public and has been for many years, investigative materials will only ever be released where there are overwhelming public interest considerations for doing so and in cases where disclosure could not be argued to be potentially prejudicial - in particular to any associated criminal justice procedures.

This remains an ongoing enquiry and so on balance, I must conclude that the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and refusing to provide the information sought.

**Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement**

The information is of potential relevance to ongoing investigations and it is therefore assessed that disclosure would prejudice the detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

I would refer you to a (December 2022) statement by the Lord Advocate as regards the case:

*“The tragic events of December 1988 have bound Scotland and the US together in deep loss and steadfast determination that all those who committed this atrocity should be brought before a court.*

*“The destruction of Pan Am 103 over Lockerbie was a crime on a scale never seen before in Scotland. More than 400 parents lost a son or a daughter, 46 parents lost their only child, more than 140 people lost a parent and seven children lost both parents.*

*“After Abdelbaset Al-Megrahi was convicted in 2001 my predecessor as Lord Advocate, Lord Boyd of Duncansby, confirmed to the Scottish Parliament that the investigation into the involvement of others in this terrible crime would continue.*

*“For more than 20 years the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service has maintained a case team working on this investigation, bringing together a range of prosecutorial expertise in counter-terrorism, major crime investigations, forensic analysis, international co-operation and mutual legal assistance.*

*“The recent developments demonstrate that there can be no time limits placed on the pursuit of justice. Scottish prosecutors and officers of Police Scotland have remained committed to the case and for decades have worked closely with US Department of Justice attorneys and FBI case agents on the investigation.*

 *“I am going to Washington DC next week where I will have meetings with US prosecutors and attend commemorative events to mark the anniversary of the tragedy. Ongoing engagement here and in the US between law enforcement authorities, and with families who lost loved ones, is an important feature of this case.*

*“Scottish prosecutors and police, working with UK Government and US colleagues, will continue to pursue this investigation, with the sole aim of bringing those who acted along with Al Megrahi to justice.”*

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On balance, I must conclude that the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and refusing to provide the information sought.

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.