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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-2515
Date: 20th December 2022



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

In a previous FOI response (IM-FOI-2022-2293) I was told that Police Scotland didn't hold the First Minister's car journey record for particular periods of time during the pandemic because "any records relating to the dates in question have been disposed of in accordance with our record retention policies".

On the basis of this response, please provide the following information:

- 1. A copy of the policy document which sets out specifically how the First Minister's travel should be recorded, and how long it should be retained.**
- 2. The date of when that record retention policy was first introduced and a copy of the official notification Police Scotland made about the retention policy change.**
- 3. Police Scotland's official rationale for not retaining the First Minister's car travel given every other Government Minister's travel is not only retained permanently but eventually put on a public website at the end of each year.**

To specify, I am not asking why the FM's car journey's are not published as I understand the security threat that could pose, but why it is not retained permanently by Police Scotland at least in the interest of accountability of the use of public expenditure?

Having considered these questions in terms of the Act I can confirm that section 17 applies and the information is *not held* by Police Scotland.

By way of explanation, there is no retention policy in relation to the First Minister's travel arrangements specifically.

To be of assistance, I can advise you that records relating to the use of police vehicles more generally are retained for 12 months and such records simply detail the miles travelled and who was driving the vehicle in question - *not* whether the First Minister was in the car at the time (and that could not be assumed as vehicles can be used for other purposes).

Furthermore, and with reference to your last question specifically, Police Scotland is only responsible for the records associated with the First Minister's travel and any other decisions are for the Scottish Government.

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Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to foi@scotland.police.uk or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.