

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1211
Date: 30 June 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.

-What information is held on the political affiliation of senior staff within your organisation

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, officers are never required or asked to disclose their political affiliations. Police officers are not allowed to be active politically and should be in an unbiased position in the course of their duties.

-The current annual cost of press and media for your organisation, and the total number of personnel employed to handle press and media for your organisation

I have interpreted your request as seeking the cost of staff who deal with the media.

Enquiries from the media are managed by the News and Account Management team within the Corporate Communications department.

There are 32 members of staff within News and Account Management with a payroll cost of £1,616,359. This cost is inclusive of National Insurance, Pension Fund and Apprenticeship Levy.

The majority of these staff members work on a shift system from 7am to 9pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 7pm on Saturday and Sunday to respond to media enquiries and support operational policing by issuing news releases and appeals. They deal with up to 35,000 media enquiries and issue around 2000 news releases each year.

-What guidelines have been issued to your organisation by the Scottish Government on press releases and media

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold any of the requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

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By way of explanation, the Scottish Government has not issued any guidelines on press releases and media. Police Scotland is operationally independent of government.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Glasgow at – foi@scotland.police.uk – 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.