| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0214  Responded to: xx February 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

The questions have been slightly reordered for ease of response.

## I am interested in the unit of organisation commonly referred to as Local Policing Areas, Divisions, Districts or Basic Command Units. They are typically aligned to local authority or community safety partnership boundaries.

## For each of these areas within your force, I would like to know:

## - the name of the area, any corresponding ONS geographical code

## - the first and last name and rank of the current senior officer responsible (often known as the 'local commander' or similar) for the policing of that area, the date they were appointed, and an email address for the individual or position.

## - if no ONS code is provided: a description of the geographic extent of the area and the boundaries to which it is aligned (this might be one or more local authorities, or community safety partnerships, or similar)

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 section 25(1) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it is exempt information”.

The information sought is publicly available at:

[Your Community - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/)

## - the first and last name and rank of the current senior officer responsible (often known as the 'local commander' or similar) for the policing of that area, the date they were appointed.

**- the first and last name and rank of the last two senior officers in that post, and the dates they were in the roles.**

**The information requested is provided in the table below:**

| Division | Commanders Name | Rank | Date of Appointed | Previous Commanders | Rank | Start date |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | Graham Mackie | CS | 28/11/2022 | Katherine Stephen | T/CS | 14/02/2022 |
| George MacDonald | CS | 03/08/2020 |
| D | Stephen Davison | CS | 05/07/2021 | Andrew Todd | CS | 03/09/2018 |
| Paul Anderson | CS | 30/04/2018 |
| N | Robert Shepherd | CS | 16/01/2023 | Conrad Trickett | CS | 03/05/2020 |
| George MacDonald | CS | 29/05/2017 |
| C | Barry Blair | CS | 09/01/2023 | Alan Gibson | CS | 02/12/2019 |
| Thomas McLoughlin | CS | 25/04/2017 |
| E | Sean Scott | CS | 30/05/2019 | Gareth Blair | CS | 18/06/2018 |
| Richard Thomas | T/CS | 01/01/2018 |
| J | Catriona Paton | CS | 29/11/2021 | John McKenzie | CS | 06/05/2019 |
| Lesley Clark | CS | 28/05/2018 |
| P | Derek McEwan | CS | 03/09/2018 | Colin Gall | CS | 31/10/2016 |
| Angela McLaren | CS | 18/05/2015 |
| G | David Robertson | T/CS | 15/01/2024 | Mark Sutherland | CS | 07/09/2020 |
| Hazel Hendren | CS | 24/06/2019 |
| K | Gordon McCreadie | CS | 16/10/2023 | Laura Waddell | CS | 12/09/2022 |
| David Duncan | CS | 01/02/2021 |
| L | Lynn Ratcliff | CS | 13/12/2021 | John Paterson | CS | 24/06/2019 |
| Hazel Hendren | CS | 29/05/2017 |
| Q | Stephen Dolan | CS | 05/09/2022 | Alan Waddell | CS | 30/07/2018 |
| Roderick Irvine | CS | 09/04/2018 |
| U | Raymond Higgins | CS | 14/08/2023 | Faroque Hussain | CS | 09/03/2020 |
| Mark Hargreaves | CS | 18/02/2019 |
| V | John Cairns | T/CS | 02/10/2023 | Carol McGuire | CS | 22/02/2021 |
| Linda Jones | CS | 30/10/2018 |

## An email address for the individual or position.

In terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought.

Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested.

The exemption(s) that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you is as follows:

Section 30(c) - Prejudice to the effective conduct of public affairs.

It is assessed that disclosure would serve to disrupt the well-established processes which members of the public are encouraged to use when contacting Police Scotland, thus prejudicing our ability to effectively manage such contact appropriately.

Whilst there is a public interest in better informing the public as to the internal mechanisms used within the force, this must be balanced with the need to ensure that the appropriate channels are used for contact and that internal mailboxes are not compromised in any way.

Persons who wish to contact the police should use the information published on our website: [Contact Police Scotland - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/contact-us/)

## Further, for each of the above areas a list of the smaller geographic areas that your force uses to organise and deliver local policing (these might commonly be called 'neighbourhoods' and will typically either be an individual ward or a collection of wards), including:

## - the name of the area, any corresponding ONS geographical code,

## - if no ONS code is provided: a description of the geographic extent of the area and the boundaries to which it is aligned (this might be an individual ward or a collection of wards)

I must first advise you that ONS codes are not routinely used by Polce Scotland - on that basis section 17 of the Act applies and I can confirm that the information sought in this respect is not held by Police Scotland.

The policing model implemented by Police Scotland uses Multi Member Ward (MMW) areas which aligns with local authority mapping. You can see a full list and access further information on the Police Scotland website via the below link;

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

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.