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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0872
Date: 21 April 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.

Information that I have been made aware of identifies that Police Scotland (The Police Service of Scotland) STORM Unity database uses the acronym “NDEU” when closing off crime reports.

The acronym NDEU may stand for “National Domestic Extremist Unit” as information in the public domain identifies that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) based at New Scotland Yard, London held (i.e. a MPS constable would have been the Information Asset Owner) the NDEU database. Information in the public domain identifies that the MPS deny that the National Domestic Extremist Unit (NDEU) is currently (or has even recently been) in existence under that name. Given this knowledge then my speculation that “NDEU” stands for “National Domestic Extremist Unit” on Police Scotland systems cannot be correct as it is simply inconceivable that Police Scotland would be sharing information on data subjects with the largest police force in the UK (i.e. the MPS) using an out-of-date acronym/descriptor.

As a Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA 2002) request please provide all recorded definitions of the acronym NDEU that Police Scotland holds.

First of all, I would remind you that FOI legislation provides a right of access to recorded information only.

Searches for information must be both thorough and reasonable, taking into account the nature of the information sought.

I would start by clarifying that there is no comprehensive list at force level of all Police Scotland acronyms.

Acronyms are used extensively throughout the force and are most commonly set out along with definitions in various Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidance.

Again however, that is not to say that all acronyms used will necessarily be included in a SOP or Guidance.

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Some may be less formal in nature and used only by specific business areas/ departments etc at a more local level.

Clearly, within the confines of the Act, I cannot search every document held by Police Scotland to establish whether or not it contains 'NDEU' and a corresponding definition.

What I can do, and what I therefore consider to be *reasonable*, is search the force intranet system, which includes all SOPs/ Guidance etc for the term.

In that regard, I can advise that the acronym is used extensively in relation to the Police Scotland National Database Enquiry Unit which provides support to operational officers by providing a national facility to conduct dynamic database checks.

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.pnn.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.