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Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0430
Date: 01 March 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.

I am writing to you to request a copy of the floor plan for Gayfield Police Station (2 Gayfield Square, Edinburgh, EH1 3NW). The purpose of my request is for development of a 3D policing game, as I would like to have an accurate interpretation of the interior of the station to show what policing in Edinburgh and Scotland in general is like.

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.

In this instance I believe Section 35 Law Enforcement is appropriate.

Section 35(1)(a) – Law Enforcement

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act, would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime.

It is not exceptional for individuals to enquire as to the buildings used by Police Scotland. Nonetheless, there is concern that the release of such data could provide attack opportunities.

The requested information could be used by a hostile party to plan and execute an attack on the Service's building. Such attacks could take the form of denial of service or other deliberate disruptions. This could not help but have the effect of reducing the ability of the police to undertake relevant activities.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

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Public Interest Test

The public interest factors favouring disclosure of the information surround the Service's accountability for public funds in terms of the cost to the public purse.

Those favouring retention of the information surround the adverse effect on the efficiency of the Service. Disclosure would provide those intent on disrupting police activities with enough information to plan and execute a targeted attack.

Consequently, in terms of the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested. Therefore, in this instance the factors favouring retention of the data outweigh those of disclosure.

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.