| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0281  Responded to: 17 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I would like to make a FOI request into the Stobo woodland creation scheme (contract number 23FGS74574), being regulated by the government body Scottish Forestry. This scheme is near the village of Stobo, west of Peebles in the Scottish Borders.**

**Scottish Forestry stated in a press release dated 10 September 2024 that an enforcement notice was served against forestry managers at Stobo, due to them failing to inform Scottish Forestry that a large area of land would be blanket sprayed with herbicide.**

**This herbicide has caused a lot of environmental damage, with press reports stating that the £2 million taxpayer-funded grant had been cancelled. This appears to be an offence under Environmental Impact Assessment (2017) regulations, under which Police Scotland could be directed to open an investigation.**

**Please could Police Scotland state if it has been made aware of this herbicide spraying at Stobo by Scottish Forestry, Scottish Ministers, or any other body. If PoliceScotland have not been made aware of this herbicide spraying, please state this. Please could Police Scotland state if it is investigating (or has investigated) this herbicide spraying or not, and if any individuals, companies or other bodies are assisting with this investigation.**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

To explain, we have consulted with colleagues in our National Rural, Acquisitive and Business Preventions team (RAB-PT) who have general engagement with Scottish Forestry via the Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime (SPARC) and they confirm that no contact regarding this issue has been made.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) are an enforcement body for matters pertaining to the environment and it is possible they may hold information of relevance to your request.

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.