| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-2365  Responded to: 29 August 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**This is a freedom of information request regarding the death of Michael Leneghan on 2nd of November 2024 in The Cowgate, Edinburgh.**

**1. What was the cause of Michael Leneghan's death? Did he somehow end up going into the side of a moving bus/vehicle, as reported by Police Scotland, causing his head to become wedged in the wheel well and resulting in decapitation?**

The individual was involved in a fatal road traffic collision.

As regards any further details, 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 following exemptions apply:

Section 34(2)(b) - Investigation of death

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

The information sought is held for the purpose of an investigation resulting in a report to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service as regards the cause of death of a person.

Public disclosure would also have a negative impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the family and friends of the deceased who, irrespective of the public curiosity surrounding this case, have the right to grieve in private.

Whist we accept that this incident happened in a public place and generated significant curiosity and speculation, a person has died in tragic circumstances and that interest is not a compelling enough reason to override their right to privacy, even in death.

**2. Did the driver of that bus/vehicle take his own life at a property in Oxgangs Place the very next morning?**

No.

**3. Why didn't Police Scotland make any further press statements about the case?**

Police Scotland made press releases as per policy in line with the investigation of road deaths.

**4. Were the press requested/instructed not to publish anything else about the incident/investigation?**

**5. Did the Police Service of Scotland or any of their partner agencies request/instruct any of the media to remove some of the stories that had been published about the incident/investigation?**

Police Scotland did not request press or media to remove stories around the incident or the investigation. We did, however, ask the media and the public not to share videos of the incident that were circulating on social media as it would cause distress to the victim’s family and anyone online who inadvertently watched it.

**6. On what date was the investigation into Michael Leneghan's death concluded?**

Police Scotland completed all enquiries and have passed these to Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service for their consideration and final determination. This is still pending.

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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.