| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0826Responded to: 26th March 2024 |
| --- | --- |

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

## Please can you tell me if Police Scotland has ever engaged the services of an expert lip reader called Jessica Rees in the course of an investigation to gather intelligence?

## I know of at least one time she was brought in by the then Grampian Police Service during the Arlene Fraser investigation, but I am looking to see if she was used after that (between 1999 and 2005)?

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation there is no simple way to extract the data requested. A manual search of every investigation within this time frame would be required to determine if the person in question was used in any investigation. This is an exercise that would greatly exceed the cost threshold set out within the Act.

## Does Police Scotland in general use the services of expert lip reader during investigations?

Police Scotland provide Front-line policing with Specialist Skills and expertise to support major crime investigations. The Expert Advisers Database within this unit is used to identify and source experts who can add value to law enforcement investigations. The database covers a broad range of expertise including Lip reading.

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 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 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.