

**OFFICIAL**

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0428  
Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Under freedom of information can you please provide all correspondence between Justice Minister Keith Brown and Police Scotland with regard to "serious organised crime" and with reference to the "Serious Organised Crime Taskforce" since he took up the position in May 2021.**

**If that scope is too wide can you please provide all correspondence between Justice Minister Keith Brown and Police Scotland's chief constable Iain Livingstone with regards to "serious organised crime" and the "Serious Organised Crime Taskforce" since he took up the position in May 2021?**

**Can any correspondence that includes reference to Operation Barricade also be included - as long as it does not take the cost of gathering the information over the cost threshold. In which case just provide the above information.**

**Can any correspondence relating to Operation Engagement also be included - as long as it does not take the cost of gathering the information over the cost threshold. In which case just provide the above information?**

I am afraid that a force wide search of the information requested would result in the application of Section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance exemption being applied. Therefore we have elected to carry out a search for the above information held by the Chief Constable's office.

However, following all relevant searches I must advise that no information could be found and so in terms of Section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information requested is not held by Police Scotland.

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.

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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](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalrnarnock, 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](mailto: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.