| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1868  Responded to: 02 July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**1. Internal Policies, Procedures and Guidance**

**Please provide copies of any recorded policies, standard operating procedures, guidance notes, memoranda or internal briefings (including any marked “internal”) that govern how Police Scotland investigates allegations of corruption involving:**

* **Officers or staff of Police Scotland and external bodies (for example the Solicitors Regulation Authority or the Legal Ombudsman), and/or**
* **Situations in which the alleged victim resides outside Police Scotland’s territorial jurisdiction but the alleged misconduct by public sector employees or regulated professionals occurs within Scotland.**

**This should include any documents issued under or pursuant to the Bribery Act 2010, Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012, or other relevant legislation.**

The formal disciplinary process for Police Officers is governed by [The Police Service of Scotland (Conduct) Regulations 2014](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/68/contents/made). The associated [Scottish Government Guidance Document](https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/04/conduct-and-performance-procedures-police-guidance/documents/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/police-guidance-conduct-procedures/govscot:document/Police%2BService%2Bof%2BScotland%2B%2528conduct%2529%2Bregulations%2B2014.pdf) provides further information on the process and allegations are categorised in line with our [Our Standards of Professional Behaviour - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/who-we-are/our-standards-of-professional-behaviour/).

The Police Scotland [Complaints About the Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/lgyddvsi/complaints-about-the-police-sop.docx) outlines how we deal with complaints. Allegations are recorded in accordance with the categories listed at appendices C and D.​

**2. Recorded Interpretations of “Cross-Jurisdictional” Duty**

**Please provide any recorded material (e.g. emails, minutes, briefing papers) in which Police Scotland has interpreted, applied, or clarified its duty to investigate corruption “even if the victim is outside your jurisdiction,” particularly where the misconduct involves another statutory regulator or oversight body.**

Police Scotland’s [Complaints About the Police Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/lgyddvsi/complaints-about-the-police-sop.docx) is mandatory for all Police officers and staff working for Police Scotland regardless of where the complainer resides.

**3. Transfer and Referral Protocols**

**Please supply any recorded protocols or flow-charts (including internal guidance) that set out how Police Scotland:**

* **Decides whether to retain or refer corruption allegations involving another force or professional regulator; and**
* **Identifies and notifies the “appropriate authority” (including another force’s Professional Standards Department, the IOPC, or other bodies) when it determines Police Scotland does not hold jurisdiction.**

Police Scotland hold no jurisdictional obligation to investigate out with Scotland.   
Should Police Scotland come into possession of any information suggestive of corruption by law enforcement out with Scotland, this would be assessed on a case by case basis, disseminating intelligence via relevant systems to the identified force within England and Wales Anti-Corruption network or, if outwith the United Kingdom, via National Central Bureaus at Interpol who would assess the risk assessment before consideration of dissemination thereafter, to the appropriate anti-corruption lead. In terms of any recorded protocols, such information is not held, and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

**4. Assistance Under Section 15  
Should you hold no recorded information for any of the above, please confirm in writing which part(s) of this request you cannot comply with and cite the relevant exemption(s). Under Section 15, please also advise what other public authority or department might hold the requested information and how I might contact them.**

As you may be aware, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 provides a right of access to recorded information only. Section 8 of the Act states that in order for a request to be valid, an applicant must describe the information requested - which is not the same as asking for a statement to be created in response to a particular matter.

We are unable to offer any comment therefore as regards what other public authority or department might hold the requested information and how you might contact them.

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.