| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-3314  Responded to: 09 October 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## We are instructed by parties whose woodland property was damaged by fire in June / July 2025 during the outbreak of wildfire which damaged moorland in the Highlands.

## Our interest is in respect of the fire damage which spread from the fire which initiated on the Cawdor Estate in 20 June 2025.  This fire, which was initially thought to have been extinguished is understood to have reignited on around 28 June 2025.  This is understood to be referred to as the Carrbridge fire.

## The Carrbridge fire caused widespread damage to woodland, plant-life and wildlife resulting in a significant environmental impact.  Against this background we are writing to request information from you under the FOI and Environment Information request regimes.  The information which we request from you is:

## When the incident was first reported

## The location of the fire damage at that time

## The nature, extent and spread of the fire and the damage caused

## The steps taken to extinguish the fire

## The findings of investigations into the cause of the fire

On 28th of June 2025, Scotland experienced the worst spate of wildfires in its history in terms of acreage of land affected and extent of damage to several estates in both the Highland and Islands and Northeast Divisions.

As a result of the size of the areas affected, a request was made for Police Scotland to carry out a proportionate level of enquiry to establish facts and assess whether there were grounds to consider a criminal prosecution.

The first fire started on 20th of June in the B9007 Duthil, Carrbridge/ Carrbridge moor area.  
It reignited on 21st and 22nd of June and then lay dormant again before reigniting on 28th of June. It burned until it was fully extinguished on 1st of July.

The second fire was in the Moyness area on 28th June 2025.

The third fire was east of the B9007 near Dava, also on 28th June 2025.

Following investigation, there is no evidence that any of the fires were started wilfully, nor to the degree where culpable and reckless criminality might be considered.

## Incident report

## Any documents, photographs reports which demonstrate 2-6 above

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(1)(b) - Investigations

Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement

Information is exempt information if it is held for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to Police Scotland making a report to the Procurator Fiscal to determine whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

Disclosure would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. It is essential that information relating to Police Scotland investigations is treated with confidence and that any disclosures are limited to the associated criminal justice procedures.

Whilst we accept that there is a public interest insofar as better informing the public regarding investigations of interest to them, the public interest is catered for by confirmation that following investigation, there is no evidence that any of the fires were started wilfully, nor to the degree where culpable and reckless criminality might be considered.

On balance, the integrity of the investigative process and the role of Police Scotland in that process carry more weight than public debate of the matters involved.

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.