| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1947  Responded to: 20th September 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Please would you provide me with the guidelines, professional standards, operating principles and all other relevant information regarding the management of sex offenders in the community?**

In response to your request, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, Police Scotland holds a large amount of documents and information that may be relevant to your request. Taking just a section of this such as our Sex Offender Policing Toolkit as an example, this extends to more than 300 sections, many of which contain extensive amounts of guidance. In order to determine which is relevant to your request and then to examine each would take a large amount of time to complete.

Police Scotland have assessed that the £600 cost limit within the Act equates to 40 hours of work and that this part of your request would breach the cost threshold.

Whilst I would normally suggest that the scope of your request be reduced in order for information to be provided within the cost limit of the Act, on a dip sample of the information we do hold, it is likely that almost all of what is held would be exempt from release under both the Section 35(1)(a)&(b) Law Enforcement and S39(1) Health and Safety exemptions of the Act. I will not go into these exemptions in depth as overall the exemption applied is under S12(1) but releasing details of our procedures and guidance would give those involved in crime the opportunity to evade or prepare against such procedures.

To be of some assistance, we do publish some information in this regard and I have provided links to this below.

[Policing of Registered Sex Offenders - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/specialist-crime-division/sex-offender-policing-units/policing-of-registered-sex-offenders/)

[Sex Offender Notification Requirements - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) (scotland.police.uk)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/3vdcxxbj/sex-offender-notification-requirements-psos-sop-v5-00.pdf)

**I am especially interested in all guidelines relating to non-violent, non-contact offenders being overseen by offender management units of Police Scotland.**

I can confirm there is no specific guidance/guidelines that specifically relates to non-violent, non-contact offenders being overseen by Sex Offender Policing Units of Police Scotland. Each Registered Sex Offenders circumstances are reviewed and assessed on an individual basis as part of the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) process.

As such, 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.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.