| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1109Responded to: 24th May 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

In follow-up to request FOI 23-0350 in relation to the Queen's funeral arrangements in Scotland in 2022.

**How much of the £15.4m sum was spent reimbursing other police forces for mutual aid provided to Scotland?**

£405,454

**Please provide a breakdown by the amount reimbursed to each force (eg £X to Greater Manchester Police etc)**

In terms of section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information requested.

Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

* states that it holds the information,
* states that it is claiming an exemption,
* specifies the exemption in question and
* states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested.

The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the information requested by you are:

* Section 31(1) – National Security and Defence
* Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement
* Section 39(1) – Health, safety and the environment

**Section 31(1) – National Security and Defence**

If the information is disclosed it may assist terrorist organisations to identify, with some accuracy, the likelihood and makeup of the deployment of Officers and resources dedicated to policing of high profile events such as the Queens funeral. This would allow terrorist organisations to take steps to prepare for such deployment. This would provide them with a tactical advantage when planning or perpetrating their terrorist plans and activities allowing them to cause the maximum impact of destruction and disruption.

The security of the United Kingdom is of paramount importance and Police Scotland will not disclose further details of such information if it would impact on National Security.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement**

 The request information, if disclosed, could be used to try and work out how and when resources are allocated within the specialist areas of protection. Those with criminal intent would then be in a position to more accurately estimate the resources allocated to protect such individuals and high profile events. Disclosure could have a negative effect on national security should the release of information be used and manipulated by criminal fraternities to try and attack politicians, public figures and other protected establishments and individuals.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**39(1) – Health, safety and the environment**

The disclosure of the information requested may have the potential to increase the number of attacks on public figures, operational police officers and members of the public and the potential to present a risk to an individual’s personal safety.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Public Interest Test**

As you will be aware, the exemptions listed above are non-absolute and require the application of the Public Interest Test. I would suggest that public accountability would favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the Service. Likewise, disclosure of the information would also inform the public debate on the issue of policing and contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

Furthermore, the applicability of the exemptions listed above, the need to ensure the effective conduct of the service in relation to prevention and detection of crime and, the public safety considerations involved in the delivery of operational policing clearly favour non-disclosure of the information requested.

It is important to note that the UK does face a serious and sustained threat from violent extremists and this threat is greater in scale and ambition than any terrorist threats in the past. The police service has a duty to promote the safety of all individuals, whether protected or not, and will not reveal any information that might jeopardise this goal. To provide a breakdown further than has been provided as part of your first question, risks identifying the makeup and quantity of resources allocated to protecting them is likely to place individuals at serious and increased risk.

On balance I would contend that the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by that in maintaining the exemptions listed, as, it is doubtful if it can ever be in the public interest to disclose information which would jeopardise the delivery of policing and the safety of individuals and prejudice the prevention or detection of crime.

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.