| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-2860Responded to: 25 September 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**In relation to the police investigation into Colin Smyth MSP (the one that led to him being charged with possessing indecent images and voyeurism) I would like the following information:**

**- the amount spent on the probe so far, including police officer and staff time**

**- the name of the investigation**

**- the name of the SIO.**

Having considered your request in terms of the Act, I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

* It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held.

Whilst we accept that there is a public interest in better informing the public as to allegations against public figures, the overwhelming public interest lies in protecting the integrity of police investigations and any subsequent prosecutions.

* If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of at least one exemption set out in the Act. In this instance, the following exemptions apply:
* Section 34(1)(b) – Investigations
* Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement
* Section 38(1)(b) – Personal Data

If held, the information sought would be held for the purposes of an investigation and it is assessed by Police Scotland that disclosure would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

Sections 38(1)(b) and 38(1)(2A) of the Act apply insofar as you have requested *third party* personal data which is exempt from disclosure where it is assessed that disclosure would contravene the data protection principles as defined in the Act.

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information, I do not agree that disclosure could be considered necessary in the circumstances.

I am further of the view that your interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

On that basis, it is considered that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

Notwithstanding the above, I can advise you that Police Scotland does not routinely record the costs or policing hours associated with any specific operation or investigation.

The nature of policing means that officers are deployed to wherever their services are most required, and the number of officers required throughout an investigation will constantly fluctuate. Officers can be involved in one or multiple investigations and can be redeployed to other duties at any given time.

Additionally, officers will be drawn from different areas, based on their skill set and expertise, with the appropriate Division meeting the cost of their core time.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.