| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1243Responded to: 23 July 2025 |
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## As requested, we have reviewed the handling of your recent FOI request in terms of section 20(1) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

## As Police Scotland has failed to respond to your request within twenty working days, it therefore follows that in terms of section 21(4)(c), your request has not been handled in accordance with the Act.

## Please accept our apologies for the delay - our response is provided below:

## I’m seeking email communications and any other information relating to an interview BBC Scotland carried out with DCI Lyndsay Laird of Police Scotland on Tues 17th Dec, 2024.

## The interview request came from myself. I’m seeking any correspondence mentioning myself, the BBC or “Disclosure” (the name of the BBC team) in relation to this interview, in advance of the interview taking place on 17/12/24 and in the weeks after.

## I would also like to request any communications relating to a documentary broadcast by the BBC (Disclosure) on 25/04/2025, and an interview with a representative of Police Scotland (DCI Lyndsay Laird) that was included within it. The film was called Matched with a Predator.

In response to your request, please find attached correspondence of relevance - three email chains and one notes type document.
You will find some of the content has been redacted as I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

**Section 30(b)(i) & (c) - Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs.**

Disclosure of email addresses and direct dial telephone numbers would prejudice substantially the effective conduct of public affairs - negatively impacting on the operational effectiveness of Police Scotland and our partners.

While it is acknowledged that disclosure would support transparency, there are already established routes for the public to make contact with the police and our partners.

There can be no public interest in disclosing information which would make it more difficult to offer an efficient and effective service.

Similarly, some very limited information which could be described as advice between colleagues has also been redacted.

## Section 38(1)(a) - Personal Data

## An applicant’s own personal data is exempt from disclosure in all circumstances.

## Section 38(1)(b) - Personal Data

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met. The only potentially applicable condition is Article 6(1)(f) which states:

‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data, in particular where the data subject is a child’

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure of this information and that disclosure may well be necessary for that purpose, I am nonetheless of the view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject. On that basis, it is my view that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

This is an absolute exemption and as such does not require the application of the Public Interest Test.

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.