| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1108  Responded to: 24 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am seeking information regarding the sharing of individuals’ personal data by universities/university accommodation providers with the police in connection with protest activity, including (but not limited to) verbal or written statements, flyering, picketing, waving of banners, and encampments.**

**Please take a broad interpretation of protest activity, including where an individual could be said to fall under the scope of this request because of what the police or the university has considered to be wider misconduct/criminality related to their activism, such as criminal damage, rather than specifically their involvement in activism.**

**QUESTIONS**

**Please provide the following information:**

**(1) Copies of any and all Information Sharing Agreements between your force and universities or university accommodation providers within your police force area.**

I can confirm the necessary checks have been carried out and there are currently 10 Information Sharing Agreements (ISAs) in place with various universities.

Applying the context you provided above, I must advise that none of these ISAs relate to protest activities, therefore, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act applies.

**(2) If retrievable within the cost limit, the number of individuals whose personal data your force has requested and/or received from a UK university or university accommodation provider since 1 October 2023 under the terms of the ISAs disclosed in response to question 1.**

**(3) If retrievable within the cost limit, please break this down the figures disclosed in response to Q2 by:**

**A. The name of university or accommodation provider (eg Unite) the data was requested/received from B. The outcome of the data request, if police made one (eg provided / refused) C. The reason for sharing data, including, whether it was in connection with any protest activity the data subject was involved in (if so, please specify the type of cause eg Pro-Palestinian, Environmental, Animal Rights)**

The information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation, as previously stated in question 1, no ISAs relate to protest activities.

**(4) Copies of any and all Community Impact Assessments (CIAs) conducted in relation to the policing of pro-Palestinian protests events in your police force area since 1 October 2023, as well as any overarching CIAs.\***

**(5) Copies of any and all Equality Impact Assessments conducted in relation to the policing of pro-Palestinian protests in your police force area since 1 October 2023, as well as any overarching EIAs.\***

In response to questions 4 and 5, 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 35(1)(a) - Law Enforcement**

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime.

**Section 39(1) - Health, safety and the environment**

Disclosure would endanger the physical health and safety of members of the public.

Public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding protests and the police handling of such enquiries.

Nevertheless, it cannot be in the public interest to release information that would prejudice law enforcement.   
I appreciate that there is a public interest in relation to policing events and in particular, protests. That said, it is essential that neither investigations nor the potential for proceedings to be brought against an individual are put at risk.   
Accordingly, in this case it is assessed that the public interest lies firmly in refusing disclosure.

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.