| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1699  Responded to: 26 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am making a Freedom of Information request for the following documents:

## Police Scotland Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for vehicle pursuits that was in force on 7th July 2024.

## Any vehicle pursuit guidance or training material produced by Police Scotland that was in force on 7th July 2024.

I have provided a copy of the Vehicle Pursuits SOP for your information however please note that some information within the document has been redacted.

We also hold a Police Vehicle Pursuits Tactics Directory, but that document is considered exempt in its entirety.

The withheld information 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 30(c) - Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under the Act would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs.

In this instance an e-mail address cannot be disclosed. To release these details publicly through FOI legislation could negatively impact on the operational effectiveness of the service and partner agencies. The email address is used for operational/business purposes and this information has been removed in order to ensure that internal processes are protected.

This is a non-absolute exemption which requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement**

Disclosure would prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders by adversely impacting on the operational effectiveness of the Service.

Being aware of details and planned actions would allow persons or groups intent on committing offences with the means to make a reasonable assessment of a vehicle pursuit. This in turn would allow those individuals or groups to make an accurate assessment of the capacity of the Service to deal with this type of incidents, compromising any tactical advantage the police may have over such persons or groups when dealing with any crime or disorder.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the Public Interest Test.

**Public Interest Test**

The exemptions detailed 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 would contribute to the accuracy of that debate.

However, the applicability of the exemption 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.

On balance the public interest on this occasion favours non-disclosure of this data.

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.