| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1774  Responded to: xx July 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, the release of any and all forensic records and reports relating to the investigation into the death of William ‘Willie’ McRae, who was found fatally injured near Glenmoriston on or around 6 April 1985.

## Specifically, I am requesting:

## The results of any fingerprint analysis conducted on the firearm recovered at the scene.

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

By way of explanation, following an extensive search, no fingerprint results were located.

## Any ballistics reports or gunshot residue (GSR) testing related to the weapon, ammunition, or Mr McRae’s hands/clothing.

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 34(2)(b) - Investigations*

Information is exempt if it is held for the purpose of an investigation for the purpose of making a report to COPFS as regards the cause of death of a person.

*Section 39(1) - Health, Safety and the Environment*

The requested information forms part of an investigation. While the investigation is no longer live, to provide details may cause harm to living relatives of the deceased.

One of the main purposes of the Police Service is to protect individuals and members of the public, to disclose the requested information would be contrary to that purpose.

*Public Interest Test*

Public accountability may favour disclosure, given that the information concerns the efficient and effective use of resources by the organisation.

However, the public interest overwhelmingly lies in protecting individuals’ and their family’s right to privacy and honouring their expectation of confidentiality - even in death.

## The chain of custody records and handling logs for the firearm and any related evidence.

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

By way of explanation, following an extensive search, no production/ledger book were found.

## Scene-of-crime forensic photographs or documentation detailing the location and condition of the firearm when discovered.

## Any laboratory or forensic notes, logs, or summaries generated in relation to this case.

In response to questions 4 and 5, please see the response to question 2.

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.