| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1871  Responded to: 21 August 2023 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I'm referring to an Orange Parade/ Walk/ March that occurred in the Village of Blackwood ML11

## On July 8th 2023 about 8pm

## It was escorted by some officers in a van- I say escorted, but it was followed with no officers at the front where 'stewards' preceded the parade.

## I'm requesting

## 1. how much it cost Police Scotland to 'police' that walk, and

The cost to the Police Service of Scotland for this procession is £529.50 (this is inclusive of administration/policing and fuel costs)

## 2. secondly, the cost of the policing the Orange Event in Larkhall on the 8th of July.

I can advise that Police Scotland does not hold all the above requested information. In terms of Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a formal notice that information is not held.

By way of explanation, the nature of policing means that officers and staff are deployed to wherever their services are most required. The Division to which individual officers or staff belong meet the cost of their core time and so there is no requirement to maintain a record of the cost of any particular duty carried out.

Further, Police Scotland do not charge organisers, participants or other interested parties for the policing of marches, parades or demonstration; therefore we do not hold accurate costs.

That said, although Police Scotland do not hold full and comprehensive costs for each march/parade, we do hold, limited costings for marches/parades. I would ask that you note that these costs are incomplete and should not be considered as an indication of the total cost of policing marches/parades.

These costs are calculated on receipt of an initial parade notification. Costs are calculated from the expected numbers of officers per parade based purely on size of parade and before any intelligence overlay is made. It is NOT updated once the Intel overlay is applied, so increases or reductions of police numbers are not taken account of. No account is taken of overtime costs to the police, fuel costs, welfare costs (packed lunches etc.) and is entirely unreliable as to what a 'parade costs' in terms of policing it.

Although these costs are NOT accurate/complete, the Scottish Information Commissioner in their guidance states that:

“Information does not have to be complete, accurate or comprehensive before it can be disclosed. If recorded information is covered by the terms of the request, it must be considered for disclosure, whatever its status.”

Accordingly in this instance as we hold costs, although as previously stated they are incomplete, a public authority has to consider these for disclosure and as such I can advise as follows:

The cost of policing costs associated with the Central Scotland Boyne Celebrations on 8 July 2023 dependant on costing method utilised is

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Median Pay Band Costing Method: | £215,526.92 |
| Event Based Costing Method: | £404,920.92 |

## 3. was the mini- event in Blackwood sanctioned & planned by Police Scotland ?

Under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Section 62 (1) (b) an applicant has to apply to the local authority to notify them of a procession, who will grant permission to hold a procession. It is not for the Police Scotland to “Sanction” a procession.

In respect of the current process police will submit a view to the local authority based on the threat, risk and harm to public safety and public order, with final determination lying with the local authority.

The sanctioning of a procession lies with the local authority and is in name only, as highlighted by the Short Life Working Group on Facilitating Peaceful Assemblies; a local authority simply cannot ‘Deny Parade Applications’ without significant legal ground, as this would possibly present an impingement on a person’s right to assemble under article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Additionally it is not the responsibility of Police Scotland to “Plan” a procession, any planning relies on a partnership approach led by the organiser of said procession. In some cases planning is referred and conducted via the Event Safety Advisory Group depending on the scale, possible level of disruption and or risk to public safety presented by the procession.

On a procession taking place police are deployed predominately to prevent disorder and minimise the risk to public safety, it is not for the police to escort said procession but to facilitate it’s peaceful passage and the return to normality post event.

To this extent it is the responsibility of the procession organiser to undertake/marshall and lead the procession utilising trained stewards, in this respect they are encouraged to follow rule 5 of the Highway Code, adhere to the Road Traffic Act 1988 and engage with and follow the relevant local authorities code of conduct for processions.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.