| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-1599Responded to: 14 July 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## Please may I have emails, notes, teams/zoom meeting or similar recordings, recordings of telephone conversations and CCTV recordings between officers of Police Scotland and the Secret Intelligence Service - also known as MI6. GCHQ, MI5, Westminster Government Agencies in regard to the ongoing investigation (Operation Branchform) the Police Scotland investigation into possible fundraising fraud in the Scottish National Party that was launched in 2021 and was still ongoing as of June 2023.

## Given this is a local Police Scotland investigation, I suggest there ought not to be any contact beyond those immediately affected.

I am refusing to confirm or deny whether the information sought exists or is held by Police Scotland in terms of section 18 of the Act.

Section 18 applies where the following two conditions are met:

- It would be contrary to the public interest to reveal whether the information is held

- If the information was held, it would be exempt from disclosure in terms of one or more of the exemptions set out in sections 28 to 35, 38, 39(1) or 41 of the Act.

The following exemptions are considered relevant:

Section 34 – Investigations by a Scottish Public Authority

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

Section 38(1) (b) – Personal Information

Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

Disclosure of the requested information, if held, would substantially prejudice the ability of Police Scotland with regards the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

## This explanation should not be taken as indicative or conclusive evidence that the information you have requested does or does not exist.

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.