| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1349Responded to: 28 May 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Under the freedom of information act I want to know why Police Scotland have not seized all information regarding Celtic Boys Club. This includes the meetings regarding paedophiles working inside Parkhead and the internal enquiry that took place which found nothing to see here.

## This situation is non political and as a tax payer I need to know the Police are doing their job without a hand tied behind their backs due to political pressure. The information in the public domain shows there has been a huge cover up and the Police are embroiled in the mess.

## As said at the beginning there is a public need for children to be safe and it's ultimately the job of the police and CPS to bring those suspected to court. We know the Celtic View has many articles on those found guilty and those who worked with them and I believe it is reasonable from that to assert those who were working with them heard or knew what was going on.

## The case going on is not criminal but rather civil because noone appears to have prosecuted Celtic FC. I myself am happy to say I want to see an investigation on this matter and for any other club harbouring paedophiles to be investigated because enablers are as bad as perpetrators.

## If as I have said there has been an investigation please give details under freedom of information if there has been no investigation also under freedom of information I want to know why. If the latter is the case before replying by e mail please consult with Dorothy Bain KC as I will be referring this to the Police Complaints authority to conduct an enquiry for corruption in a public office as someone somewhere has made a decision that is wrong.

Firstly, I can advise that Operation Veritat was a large scale enquiry and accused individuals were reported to the Procurators Fiscal.

With regards to productions seized with this enquiry, in terms of section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), I am refusing to provide you with the above requested information.

Section 16 of the Act requires Police Scotland, when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemptions that I consider to be applicable are detailed below:

The exemptions that I consider to be applicable to the above requested information are as follows:

**Section 34(1) (a) (i) & (b) – Investigations by a Scottish public authority**

Information is considered exempt information if it has, at any time, been held by a Scottish public authority for the purposes of an investigation which may lead to a decision to report the circumstances to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service to enable a determination on whether criminal proceedings should be instigated and to determine whether a person should be prosecuted for an offence.

This is a non-absolute exemption and requires the application of the public interest test.

## Section 35(1)(b) – Law Enforcement

## Section 39(1) – Health, safety and the environment

In regard to Section 35(1)(a)(b) and 39(1), as per the above, release of this information would be likely to prejudice substantially the ability of the police to investigate and detect crime and would have a similar detrimental impact on the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

These are non-absolute exemptions and requires the application of the public interest test:

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

Nevertheless it cannot be in the public interest to release information that would prejudice law enforcement or which is likely to have an adverse impact upon public safety.

**Section 38(1) (b) - Personal Data**

Personal data is defined in Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as:

*‘Information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person (“data subject”); an identifiable natural person is one who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural or social identity of that natural person’*

Section 38(2A) of the Act provides that personal data is exempt from disclosure where disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles set out at Article 5(1) of the GDPR which states that:

*‘Personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject’*

Article 6 of the GDPR goes on to state that processing shall be lawful only if certain conditions are met.

The only potentially applicable condition is set out at Article 6(1)(f) which states: *‘Processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the controller or by a third party, except where such interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject which require protection of personal data.*

Whilst I accept that you may have a legitimate interest with regards the disclosure, I am nonetheless of the view that those interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subject(s).

Accordingly, it is my view that disclosure of the requested information would be unlawful.

**Public Interest Test**

I appreciate there is an interest in the release of such information: however, this must be tempered against what is of interest to the public and what is in the public interest.

The Act does not define the public interest, however, it has been described as “something which is of serious concern and benefit to the public”, not merely something of individual interest. In other words, it serves the interests of the public.

It is in the public interest that an understanding exists as to the processes involved in police investigations and in their relative success. This is particularly true in investigations, therefore, accountability and transparency relating to the actions of Police Scotland and its officers would favour disclosure of the information.

That said, when the Freedom of Information Bill was considered by the Scottish Parliament, the then Lord Advocate stated that the exemptions detailed in section 34(1) were essential for an effective justice system.

In addition, Section 34, has no harm test and information will be exempt from disclosure simply because it has, at some point, been held by an authority for any of these purposes listed.

Accordingly, I can find no public interest in the disclosure of the requested information.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.