

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2021-2859  
Date: 17 January 2022



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

**I am making a Freedom Of Information request in order to discover how many victims and/or perpetrators of ritual child abuse have been made CCAs/CHISs.**

**Please will you kindly inform myself whether [named individuals] are being used as CHISs**

The term CCA is not recognised but your request has been progressed on the basis that it seeks information in relation to Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) used by Police Scotland.

Having considered the above questions in terms of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, 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(1)(b) - Investigations  
Section 35(1)(a)&(b) - Law Enforcement  
Section 38(1)(b) - Personal information  
Section 39(1) - Health and Safety

Disclosure of any information that could lead to the identification of CHIS would not only be contrary to privacy laws but would also significantly undermine the prevention and detection of crime and apprehension and prosecution of offenders and also put individuals at increased risk of harm.

## OFFICIAL

Although I consider that public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the application of these measures, we must ensure that the release of this level of detail is not inadvertently providing potentially harmful information and placing an individual at risk.

This is a matter of principle which applies equally to any member of the public who could find themselves subject to this or other protective measures in a variety of circumstances.

In conclusion, it simply cannot be in the public interest for Police Scotland or any police force to confirm details of those individuals who are currently, or have been in the past, subject to this process.

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

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.