|  Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-1201Responded to: 01 August 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

1. **The number of police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), or other police staff currently assigned to work in or with schools within your force area.**
* **Please break this down by job title (e.g. Police Officer, PCSO, etc.) and by local authority area or school (if possible).**
* **If available, please also distinguish between those permanently based in schools (e.g. School Liaison Officers, Safer Schools Officers) and those who visit schools as part of outreach or other duties.**
1. **A list of all schools (including school name and postcode) that currently have a designated police officer or PCSO assigned to them.**
* **If this would exceed the cost limit, please instead provide the total number of such schools, broken down by local authority or policing area.**
1. **For each of the last three academic years (e.g. 2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24 to date), please provide the number of officers or PCSOs assigned to work in schools or with schools within your force area.**
* **Please include the same breakdowns as above if available.**

The table below details Constable Campus Officers and School/ Youth Engagement Officers who are all Police Constables, broken down by division.

We are unable to provide information per school as the officers are recorded at a divisional level and school information is not recorded on the system.

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

Although a school may not have designated Constable Campus or School/ Youth engagement officers, it will have a designated Schools Liaison Officer.

These can be full-time or part-time posts, where officers spend a proportion of their time working in schools and other education settings but also perform other policing functions.

Therefore, the actual total of officers who work within schools may be higher.

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| **Division** | **2021/22** | **2022/23** | **2023/24** | **2024/25** |
| A Division | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| N Division | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| C Division | 16 | 15 | 11 | 14 |
| E Division | 12 | 12 | 11 | 13 |
| J Division | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| G Division | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Q Division | 11 | 7 | 5 | 7 |
| U Division | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 |
| V Division | 6 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| **Total** | **86** | **82** | **76** | **83** |

1. **If your force has any specific policies, protocols, or agreements relating to officers in schools (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding with schools or local authorities), please provide copies of these documents.**

We have reached out to each division, who have provided their Minute of Agreements with local authorities in relation to officers in school.

Please find attached separately 8 documents for your attention.

As you will note some, minimal information has been redacted, which I am refusing to provide in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the following exemptions apply:

* Section 30(c) - Prejudice to the Effective Conduct of Public Affairs.

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under the Act would otherwise prejudice substantially, or be likely to prejudice substantially, the effective conduct of public affairs.

In this case telephone numbers and e-mail addresses have been redacted. To release these details publicly through FOI legislation could negatively impact on the operational effectiveness of the relevant department within Police Scotland or our partners. While it is acknowledged that the disclosure of this information would support transparency and better inform the public as to how the organisation conducts its business, there are already established routes for the public to contact with the police and the disclosure of these additional details would not support the effective conduct of public affairs.

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

To release e-mail addresses which are not in the public domain could negatively impact on the operational effectiveness of Police Scotland. Accordingly, to ensure that internal processes are protected, this information cannot be disclosed.

* Section 35(1)(a)&(b) – Law Enforcement

The information requested is exempt, as its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice substantially the prevention or detection of crime and apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Such information would prove extremely useful information for persons involved in criminality as they would be able to plan and conduct their activities to avoid detection. It would confirm the resources available, which would allow those intent on wrong doing to judge the police response to a variety of incidents. In turn this would prejudice substantially the ability for our officers to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders.

Disclosure would have an adverse impact on the ability of the Police to carry out its law enforcement role effectively and thereby prejudice substantially the prevention and detection of crime.

The exemptions detailed above require the application of the public interest test.

Public awareness would favour a disclosure as it would contribute to the public debate surrounding the use and deployment of this specialist equipment.

That said, I would contend that the efficient/effective conduct of the service and public safety favours retention of the information as 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 Information

Article 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) defines personal data 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 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, in particular where the data subject is a child’.

Notwithstanding, I am further of the view that your interests are overridden by the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the data subjects.

On that basis, it is considered that disclosure of the information sought would be unlawful.

As such, any personal data, including names has been redacted.

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.